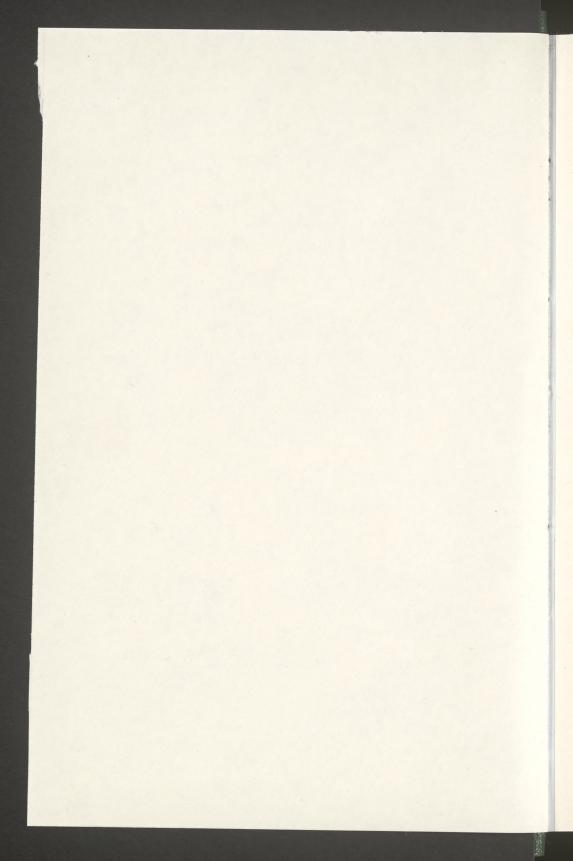
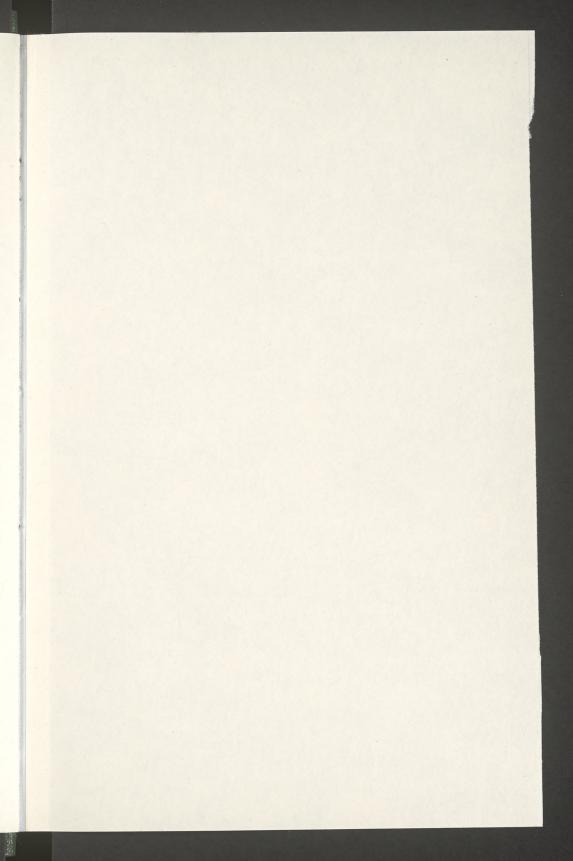


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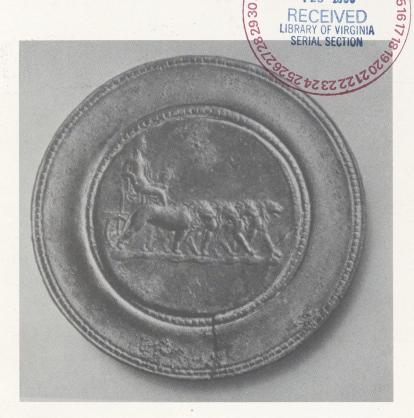




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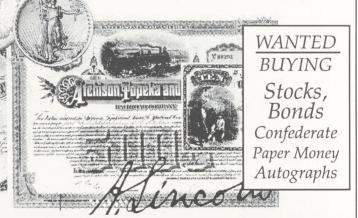
THE YIRGINIA NUMISMATIST



Volume 35 NUMBER 1 JANUARY 1999

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THE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST

VOLUME 35, NO. 1 January, 1999

The VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST, the official publication of the Virginia Numismatic Association, inc., is published six times per year. Articles and items for publication are welcomed and solicited. All six issues are mailed from Hampton, Va. at the Third Class Rate and cannot be forwarded, so be sure to send us your change of address. All VNA mail should be sent to the Sec. - Treas. / Editor:

Jim Ruehrmund 712 Westover Road Richmond, VA 23220-6327

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe 1999 is already here. 1998 has been a very good year for the Virginia Numismatic Association. We continue to grow in size and we are constantly improving the association for you our members. To keep the VNA moving forward, we need the input each of you on what we are doing right and things you would like to see changed.

Since it is a new year, I have some challenges for each of you. First, share your hobby with a friend or relative. Remember how much fun you get from numismatics and how there really is something for everyone. Second, get involved. Join a local coin club. If you belong to a club, volunteer for an elective office or give a talk at a meeting. Third, take the time to learn something new in numismatics. There are plenty of excellent books on a variety of subjects. Read one and open up a new horizon. Personally, numismatic books made up the bulk of my Christmas wish list to Santa, much to the relief of my wife and family!

I had the opportunity in October to attend the Salem Coin Club's Fall Show. As always, this was a first class event even though I didn't win one of the door prizes. I guess I will have to buy more tickets next year. I enjoyed meeting a number of our VNA members at the two days I was at the show. If you haven't attended one of the Salem Coin Club's shows, put it

on your calendar. You won't be disappointed.

I would like to congratulate Jerry Schmidt of Imperial Coins in Richmond. Jerry was recently elected as a member of the Professional Numismatists Guild which is a nonprofit dealer's organization founded in 1955. Jerry is a longtime member of VNA and has authored several articles for our

magazine.

Just a reminder that since it is 1999, VNA annual dues should have been paid. At \$8.00 a year for Regular Members, it is a bargain. If you want to make your best investment of 1999 early, join VNA as a Life Member for only \$100.00. Remember you get six issues of the award winning "Virginia Numismatist" a year and a free ad up to 30 words per issue as part of your membership dues. As publishing and other costs increase, we will not be able to hold membership dues down forever.

Wishing you a happy and prosperous New Year.

Mike Capen

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Mr. Jim Ruehrmund, Editor The Virginia Numismatist Richmond, VA

Dear Editor,

I want to thank all the great VNA volunteers for their help in putting on a grand convention. When I agreed to be the Convention Chairman and Bourse Czar, I had no idea that it would be so much work, and that so much help would be needed to put it on.

My hat goes off to all the volunteers, and the manner in which they helped to plan, coordinate and carry out the many tasks involved. Without them the show would not have been such a success. A great deal of our show's success was directly due to the personal efforts of our volunteers. THANK YOU ALL!

Warmest Regards,

Steve

COL Steven Ellsworth
Convention Chair / Bourse Czar.

VNA WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

The following applicants, will become members of VNA 20 days from the mailing of this notice, unless objections are received, in which case the matter will be acted upon by the Board of Directors.

Applicant	Sponsor
David D. Damron, St. Albans, West Virginia	Jim Ruehrmund
William T. Friend, II, Leesburg, Virginia	Steven Ellsworths
Paul Gross, Louisa, Virginia	Steven Ellsworth
Larry Hurt, Roanoke, Virginia	Steven Ellsworth
Richard H. Reno, Salem, Virginia	Steven Ellsworth

SALEM COIN CLUB'S SPRING SHOW

The Salem Coin Club will hold its Spring Coin Show Sat. & Sun., Apr. 24-25 1999 at The American Legion Bldg., 710 Apperson Dr., Salem, Va. Hours are: Sat. 10 am to 6pm, and Sun. 10 am-5pm. For information, contact Show Chairman Emmett Yonce, 1040 Roanoke Rd., Daleville, VA 24083; ph (540) 992-5331.

NATIONAL COIN WEEK, 1999

TREASURES IN CHANGE

The American Numismatic Association will utilize the 50 States circulating commemorative quarter program in celebrating the 76th

observance of National Coin Week, April 18 - 24.

ANA Education Director (and VNA member) Gail Baker Kraljevich said, "The launching of the commemorative quarter program by the United States Mint next year offers a wonderful opportunity to focus attention on 'Treasures in Change', the theme for the 1999 National Coin Week. National Coin Week offers a special time to educate the public about the hobby of numismatics, where everyone can hold history in their hands."

Beginning in January, the Mint will issue the first quarters with reverse designs commemorating each of the 50 states. Five different designs will be issued each year over the next decade, released in the order of each state's ratification of the Constitution or admission to the Union. Quarter designs for 1999 will commemorate Delaware,

Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia and Connecticut.

This Year's National Coin Week theme will again demonstrate how the study of coins can help unlock an understanding of history, sociology, art, archaeology, political science, economics, language and so much more. Numismatics can begin with the simple discovery of a scarce or rare coin in pocket change and lead to a lifetime pursuit as both an avocation and vocation.

ANA again is offering full scholarships to future Summer Seminars to the collector and the coin club reporting the best and most

innovative method of promoting National Coin Week.

The 1998 collector award was won by Robert Sun, president of Suntex International, Inc., who previewed a new currency edition of his 24® Game, on discs called "Wheelies TM". Each Wheelie shows four numbers, along with pictures of coins and paper money; players add, subtract, multiply or divide each number just once to reach the number 24, racing other players or the clock.

The club award went to the Clements Coin Club (C-Cubed), of Sugar Land Texas, the world's largest high school coin club, which organized educational exhibits at their school, in the school district administration building, City Hall and in the lobby of a local bank.

Entries for 1999 National Coin Week awards must be received by the ANA on or before May 31, 1999. For more information, contact the ANA Education Department, 818 N. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279; tel. (719) 632-2646; fax (719) 634-4085. E-Mail anaedu@money.org; Web Site www.money org.

The Origins of Bimetallic Coins By Jim Ruehrmund

As John Magruder pointed out in his July, 1997 article, *Modern Bimetallic Coins*, the issue of bimetallic circulating coins by numerous countries in recent years has given rise to a new collecting

field with its own specialty collector's club.

In addition to their attractiveness, bimetallics offer several material advantages: they are not easily counterfeited, an important consideration for issues of high face value in base metal, and they are easily recognizable, thus avoiding confusion with lower denomination coins of similar size. Although they are a novelty in modern coinage, the bimetallic concept is not novel at all. A references search turned up a number of early bimetallics, and there must be some I've missed.

Credit for originating the ringed bimetallic format goes to the ancient Romans, who used it only for medals. They were first issued in the reign of Hadrian (A.D. 117-138), and continued for a span of over two centuries. An article in the August 3, 1998 issue of *Coin World* described several bimetallic medals of Severus Alexander (A.D.

224-235) and Volusian (A.D. 251-253)

Roman bimetallics had a disc of copper or bronze set in a ring of orichalcum, a Roman form of brass. Obverses feature a portrait of the reigning emperor, while the reverses cover a wide variety of subjects, all done in high relief, with artistry of the highest order. They are larger than the largest coins, and are excessively rare today. They must have been presentation pieces given out by the emperors on special occasions. An example is illustrated on the front cover.

The first bimmetallic coins that we know of were issued by the kings of Axum in today's Ethiopia. The history of this ancient kingdom and its rulers (many known only from coins) is still very obscure, but it appears that they flourished between the first and eighth centuries A.D. The Axumites struck coins of gold, silver and bronze; we have no clue as to their denominations, but they range in size between 11 and 16 mm; some have the king's head on both sides, and all are rare. Christianity was introduced around A.D. 330, after which the cross became a frequent reverse type. At some point, possibly in the 4th century, the Axumites began to issue bimetallics,





Silver coin of Axum AD 350-400

silver and bronze coins with gold inlays. The usual type is a small circular gold insert at the center of the cross on the reverse, while sometimes the entire cross is gold inlaid. In some cases the inlay forms the king's crown, and in others it forms a background around the

king's bust. The meaning of this curious ornamentation and how these coins fitted into the currency system are not known.

After the Romans and Axumites, there is a gap of about twelve hundred years in bimetallic chronology, for the next ones I'll discuss are English coins of the 17th century.



Tin Halfpenny of James II, with copper plug

In 1684, during the reign of King Charles II, the Royal Mint began to strike farthings in tin. As a deterrent to counterfeiting, each coin had a square copper plug embedded in it, thus making them bimetallic. Halfpennies and farthings of similar composition were issued under James II (1685-1688), and under William and Mary until 1692. These coins have lettered edges, with the date and an inscription which reads NVMMORVM FAMVLVS (SERVANT OF THE COINAGE).



St. Patrick Halfpenny, copper with brass insert

The first bimetallic coins seen in America must have been the St. Patrick coppers, brought to New Jersey from Ireland in 1681. The obverse, which depicts a king playing a harp, has a large crown in the field. The coins have a brass insert, and most were carefully struck so

that the brass received the impression of the crown. The overall effect must have been striking when the coins were new.

In 1792 the newly opened U.S. Mint experimented briefly with a bimetallic coin, a copper cent with a silver plug set in the center,

designed to bring the intrinsic value of the piece up to one cent. The idea was not adopted, and only a few



U.S. Silver Center Cent

of the silver center cents were made. Had they entered circulation they would have been very vulnerable to tampering, and forgers would have had a field day punching out the silver plugs and replacing them with lead ones.

The foregoing are just a few examples of early bimetallic coinage. I have barely scratched the surface of the subject, and I hope that others, with larger libraries, more resources and more knowledge than I have, will continue the quest.

CURT BINNS' FOOTSTEPS

Following the article on the *U.S.S. Olympia* last September, this article was sent in by John Magruder of Tappahannock, Va. The author is Linda Shreader, a co-worker of John's mother.

My father, Dale Schreader, worked at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard for over 40 years. When he was a young planner and estimator in the late 1940s, he was given the assignment of maintaining the *U.S.S. Olympia*, Admiral Dewey's flagship during the Battle of Manilla Bay. The fine old ship had seen better days, but was now mothballed at the yard. My dad's job was to do the routine monthly maintenance needed to keep the historic ship in good shape. It was a rather pleasant duty, as it required a monthly trip to the ship for an afternoon. Since the duties were not lengthly, but physically demanding, my dad and his partner occasionally took some time to relax before coming back.

My dad's partner in this endeavor was a man named Curt Binns. He was about my father's age, and they enjoyed each other's company. One day before coming back, dad and Mr. Binns fell to speculating what the Battle of Manilla Bay had been like. As they were standing behind the Captain's wheel, they speculated that the Admiral has stood there during the battle. My dad, as a joke, got some chalk and outlined Mr. Binns's feet on the deck. He then labeled them "outline of the feet of Adm. Dewey as he commanded the fleet at the Battle of Manilla Bay."

Time passed, and my dad passed this duty to others at the yard. A group of local businessmen got together, restored the *Olympia* to its former glory, and opened it to visitors. In the late 70s my dad was one of the visitors. He fondly toured his old charge, but the highlight of his tour was when he saw the brass plaque by the steering wheel. It proclaimed that these were the outlines of Adm. Dewey's feet, and this was the place where he stood during the Battle of Manilla Bay. Imagine dad's surprise and delight when he saw that the feet immortalized on the *Olympia's* deck were those of his old friend, Curt Binns. Many people tour the Olympia and think that they've seen the footsteps of Adm. Dewey, but in our family they are called Curt Binns footsteps.

OF GOOD & BAD BILLS

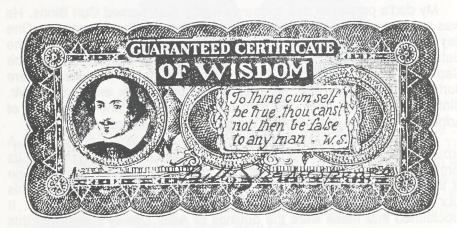
by the Editor

Bill Wilkerson, the genial proprietor of Modern Coin, Inc. in Richmond, died in January, 1998, but he'll never be forgotten by his friends.

Bill used to come up with all sorts of interesting stuff, much of it having little or nothing to do with numismatics, but interesting just the same. I especially remember the time in July, 1997, when he turned up a copy of the April 20, 1916 issue of the old *Life* magazine. Aside from the name, the old *Life* had nothing in common with the *Life* magazine that's still around today. It was something like the British *Punch*, with cartoons and humorous commentary on personalities and events of the day. It ceased publication sometime in the 1920s or early '30s.

A lot of space in the April 20, 1916 issue was devoted to William (Bill) Shakespeare, since the three hundredth anniversary of the Bard's death fell on April 23rd. that year. There were pieces about how Shakespeare would deal with the problems of modern life, what he would write about were he living today, etc. There was also a little something numismatic...good and bad bills. There was no accompanying text, but I found the bills intriguing, so I copied them, and have

reproduced them here for the edification of our readers.



A GOOD BILL

The good bill, "A Guaranteed Certificate of Wisdom", carries, of course, a portrait of Bill Shakespeare, while the bad one, a "Guaranteed Certificate of Hate", portrays Kaiser Wilhelm II of



A BAD BILL

Germany, known to Americans of that era as "Kaiser Bill". America's entry into World War I was still a year in the future, but the German Kaiser was already the man Americans loved to hate. The curious aspect of that is that scarcely one person in a hundred in America today has ever heard of him.

As a collector of fantasy notes, I'd love to have actual examples of those two bills, but I suspect that there never were any. The designs were doubtless made up only for reproduction in the magazine. Anyway, here they are, reproduced full size, relics of a bygone era, and mementos of another "Good Bill", Bill Wilkerson.

THE WALT MASON AWARD FOR 1999

This award was established in 1988 to honor the memory of Walt Mason, one of the most distinguished numismatists in the middle Atlantic area, who was known as a "collector's collector". It recognizes those whose long-term services to our hobby have shown the same generosity, integrity and selflessness that Walt himself always exhibited.

Nominations must be in letter form, and can be made by anyone. Nominees do not have to be VNA members, but must have been numismatically active in the area of Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, the District of Columbia, Virginia and the Carolinas. The award will be presented at the VNA convention in October. To obtain additional information, a copy of the award criteria or to contribute support, contact Len Harsel, P.O. Box 2301, Springfield, VA 22152.

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ALEXANDRIA COIN CLUB. Meets at 8:00 pm on 3rd Wednesdays in the Hammond Jr. High School cafeteria, 4646 Seminary Rd. in Alexandria. For info contact Alynne Skrabalak, P.O. Box 5234, Woodbridge, VA 22194.

BLUE RIDGE COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:30 pm on last Tuesdays at the Robert Smith Studio, upstairs, at 105 North 1st St., Charlottesville, Va. For information write to BRCC, 1561 Dairy Rd., Charlottesville, VA 22903

MONTICELLO COIN CLUB. Meets on 2nd Tuesdays at the Golden Corral Restaurant, 1185 Seminole Trail (Rt. 29 N.) in Charlottesville, Va. For info contact Sec.-Treas. Jim Luck, 301 E. Market St., Charlottesville, VA 22902. Ph. (804) 295-1765.

PIEDMONT COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 3rd Tuesdays at the Volunteer Fire Dept., Collinsville, Va. For information write to Piedmont Coin Club, P.O. Box 418, Collinsville, VA 24078.

RAPPAHANNOCK AREA COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 3rd Tuesdays in Meeting Room 2 of the Central Rappahannock Regional Library, Caroline St., Fredericksburg, Va. For information contact Harry Frank, 5923 Cascade Dr. Fredericksburg, VA 22407.

RICHMOND COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:30 pm on 1st Tuesdays at the First Union Bank Bldg., 7 N. 8th St., Richmond, Va. For information contact Jim Ruehrmund, 712 Westover Rd., Richmond, VA 23220.

SALEM COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 2nd Mondays at the Roanoke Main Library, 706 S. Jefferson St., Roanoke, Va.. For information contact Emmett Yonce, 2040 Roanoke Rd, Daleville, VA 24083.

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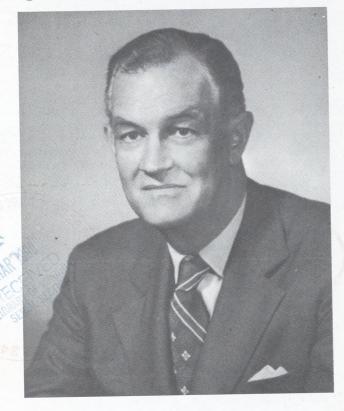
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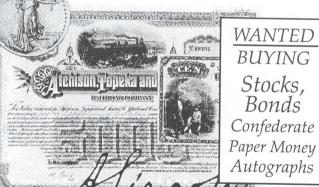


MILLS E. GODWIN, Jr. 1914 - 1999

Volume 35 NUMBER 2 MARCH 1999

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ADVERTISING COPY DEADLINES

The deadline for all copy is the first of the month preceding month of issue (e.g., April 1st for May 10th issue).

THE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST

VOLUME 35, NO. 2 March, 1999

The VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST, the official publication of the Virginia Numismatic Association, inc., is published six times per year. Articles and items for publication are welcomed and solicited. It is mailed at the 3rd Class Rate and cannot be forwarded, so be sure to send us your change of address. Send mail relating to the magazine to Jim Ruehrmund, 712 Westover Road, Richmond, VA 23220-6327.

Send all correspondence about membership, address changes, etc. to Daryl C. Spelbring, P.O. Box 633, Vienna, VA 22183.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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The Virginia Numismatic Association, in conjunction with the Blue Ridge and Monticello Coin Clubs, will host a Spring Coin Show on 3 April 1999. This is the first time VNA has helped sponsor a Spring Show with some of our local clubs. We hope to make this an annual event, and move i around the state with different member clubs helping to sponsor it. Look for an announcement in this issue of the magazine with all the information on the show. I want to thank the members of the Blue Ridge and Monticello Clubs for agreeing on short notice to sponsor the show with us.

As 1999 progresses, we are getting ready for another VNA election. Besides electing Board Members, we will also be electing a new president this year, as my term of office will end this October. A call for nominations appears in this issue, and I encourage each of you to think about whom you want to run your organization. Nominations

can be made by any VNA member in good standing.

Board member, Daryl Spelbring, has taken over the membership duties from Jim Ruehrmund. Jim is still editor of this magazine and VNA Secretary-Treasurer, but you will see a new address on the membership applications as a result of this change. Thank you, Daryl,

for taking on this important job for us.

I just got my first Delaware quarter in change the other day. The new circulating commemorative quarters will be issued at the rate of five a year for the next ten years in the order the states joined the union. This is a real exciting time for coin collecting, and each of us should look at it as an opportunity to bring new collectors into the hobby. In the year 2000 we should see a new circulating dollar coin, in addition to the release of the Virginia commemorative quarter. I've already given away all three of the new quarters I've received in change to young collectors.

I look forward to seeing and/or hearing from each of you over the next few months. Write me a letter, e-mail me, or speak to me at one of the club shows. I need your input to make sure VNA is serving the

needs of you, our members.

Mike Capen

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FROM THE EDITOR

As I write this, we are well into the month of February, but as yet I've not received a single one of the new Delaware commemorative quarters in change, and, aside from Mike Capen's finds, I don't know of anyone who has. In fact, I've yet to even see one. Maybe a few will trickle down to Virginia by summer, but I'm not holding my breath. On the other hand, I've seen ads in Coin World offering them @ 50¢ apiece, but patient folks, who are willing to wait, will eventually get

all they want at face value.

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The Virginia quarter is not due out until next year. Precedence for the original thirteen states is the order in which they ratified the Federal Constitution, and Virginia, beleiving that too much power was given the central government, was among the last to ratify. Design of the Virginia quarter was handled by the State Treasurer's office, and they played it very close to the vest. Hoping to run an article in the magazine about citizen input to the design process, I called them frequently, starting in July. The right person was never in, and my calls were not returned until 20 Sept., when I was told that the deadline for design suggestions was 30 Sept. So much for that! The designs they submitted, Mount Vernon, Monticello and the Jamestown ships, while not exactly brilliant, aren't bad. Personally, I favor the Jamestown ships, because I have a suspicion that it's the nearest we'll get to a coin commemorating the founding of Jamestown in 1607.

It's an enormous relief to me that Daryl Spelbring (Life Member #80) has taken over the administration of VNA membership matters, for which I'm deeply grateful. He sent out this year's dues notices, and will also prepare the mailing labels for this and subsequent issues of the magazine. Many of you know Daryl, having visited his table at shows, where he deals in world banknotes. He went to the same school

I did, so I'm confident that he'll do a superb job.

NATIONAL COIN WEEK

National Coin Week 1999 will be observed April 18-24. The theme, inspired by the release of the new state commemorative quarters, is "Treasures in Change". This is the time for us to educate the public about our hobby by going into classrooms, speaking before civic groups and setting up exhibits in libraries, schools, banks and shopping malls. ANA offers two full scholarships to any future Summer Conference to the club and the collector who submit the best report of how they promoted National Coin Week. Send reports to ANA, 818 N. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903; they must be received by ANA on or before May 31, 1999.



MILLS EDWIN GODWIN, Jr. 1914 - 1999

Virginia lost one of her most distinguished sons, and VNA lost a devoted member in the death on 30 January 1999 of former Governor Mills E. Godwin, Jr. of Suffolk, at the age of 84. Gov. Godwin was the only person in this century to be elected twice to the state's highest office, serving from 1966 to 1970 as a Democrat, and from 1974 to 1978 as a Republican. Among his most notable accomplishments were establishment of Virginia's community colleges and the modernization of the state's financial system.

Gov. Godwin was well known to many VNA members, not as a statesman, but as an enthusiastic fellow collector, who was a frequent visitor to Richmond coin shops. He joined VNA in 1975, and

maintained his membership up to his death.

"Gov. Godwin is survived by his wife of 58 years, Mrs. Katherine Beale Godwin, and by his sister, Mrs. Leah G. Keith, to both of whom the Virginia Numismatic Association extends deepest sympathy.

BURNETT ANDERSON 1919-1998

Burnett Anderson of Washington. D.C., a distinguished journalist, and Washington bureau chief for Krause Publications, died on 26 November 1998.

A native of Grantsburg, Wisconsin, and a graduate of the University of Rochester, he worked as a reporter for newspapers in Minnesota, New York and Stockholm, Sweden, before joining the U.S. Information Agency in 1954. After retiring from Government service in 1979, he joined Krause Publications as chief of their Washington bureau.

Burnett joined VNA in 1980, and was well known to a great many of us through his regular and always welcome attendance at coin shows, especially ours, where he dispensed good cheer and complimentary copies of Krause publications. Burnett was a good friend both to our association and to many of us personally, and we are going to miss him.

Burnett is survived by his wife, Pia, two sons, Mark and Lee, and two grandchildren, to all of whom the Virginia Numismatic

Association extends warmest sympathy.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Between May 1 and June 1 nominations will be open for the offices of President, 1st. Vice President, 2nd. Vice President and four places on the VNA Board of Directors. Persons making nominations and candidates must be members in good standing. Send nominations to: Jim Ruehrmund, 712 Westover Rd., Richmond, VA 23220-6327, to reach him no later than June 1, 1999.

THE WALT MASON AWARD FOR 1999

This award was established in 1988 in memory of Walt Mason, a distinguished numismatist, who died in 1987. It recognizes those whose long-term services to our hobby have shown the same generosity, integrity and selflessness that Walt himself always exhibited.

Nominations must be in letter form, and can be made by anone. Nominees do not have to be VNA members. The award will be presented at the VNA convention in October. To obtain additional information, contact Len Harsel, P.O. Box 2301, Springfield, VA 22152.

THE VNA / BLUE RIDGE / MONTICELLO SPRING SHOW

VNA will co-sponsor the spring coin show of the Blue Ridge and Monticello Coin Clubs. The show will be held from 10 AM to 5 PM on Saturday, 3 April 1999 in the Rivanna Room at the Antiquer's Mall, 2335 Seminole Trail (off Rt. 29 North) in Charlottesvile, Va. The cost of a table is \$40.00. To reserve space, or obtain further information, contact Show Chairman Doug Seal, P.O. Box 598, Crozet, VA 22932, Tel. (804) 823-8096. Mark the date 3 April on your calendar, and plan to come to Charlottesville to shop for goodies, and meet your friends.

THE WARRENTON STAMP & COIN CLUB

VNA welcomes its newest member club, the Warrenton Stamp & Coin Club, which has 26 members. They meet at 7:00 PM on second Wednesdays at TSG Hobbies, 683 Warrenton Center, 251 West Lee Highway in Warrenton, Va. Programs alternate between stamps and coins, and an auction sale is held at every meeting. The club's president is Dr. Frank S. Black. The secretary is Dr. Gerald Hoffman, 7290 Hunton St., Warrenton, VA 20187.

NEW GUYS ON THE BLOCK

Kenny ("The Coin Man") Muller has teamed up with Mike Ciner to open a new coin shop in the Richmond area, the American Coin Exchange (see their ad. on page 12). They are located in Chesterfield County, in the USA Mini Mall, 4000 Meadowdale Blvd. To get there, come south from Richmond on Chippenham Parkway, exit at Hopkins Rd., go right on Hopkins and turn left at the first traffic light. The American Coin Exchange buys and sells U.S. coins, U.S, Confederate and obsolete currency, proof sets, Eagles, etc., and they also carry a full line of coin supplies. Store hours are 9 AM to 7 PM, Saturdays and Sundays. Plan to pay them a visit.

CONVENTION ADS & PATRONS

Ads and patron listings in the July issue of the magazine help with the convention expenses, and we appeal to our members and friends for their support. A patron listing cost only \$2. Cost of ads is:

Full Page: \$25 Half Page: \$15 Quarter Page: \$7.50

You don't have to send formally prepared copy, just write out what you want to say & send it in. The editor must receive them no later than the last week in May. Send them to: VNA 712 Westover Rd.,Richmond, VA 23220.

1999 VNA CONVENTION AND COIN SHOW

As of 10 Feb..the following dealers had signed up for VNA's '99 Show:

Angel Dee's Coins, Woodbridge, VA B & H Coins, Jamison, PA Banknotes of the World, Vienna, VA Bill Smith's"Junk to Unc", Clover, VA Brian Kritt Ancient Coins, Burtonsville, MD. Brian Kritt Butternut, Clifton, VA Carat-Coin-Collectibles, N. Olmsted, OH CEO Coins, Savage Mill, MD Coins & Collectibles, Seaford, NY Coins of the Realm, Rockville, MD Connections Coin Co., Sandston, VA Cotten's Coins & Currency, Cary, NC David Weinstein, Clover, VA Don Baily Numismatic, Homer, MI Don Frederick, Annandale, VA Douglas F. Bird, Inc., Hermosa Beach, CA Fasano Bros. Rare Coins, Manahawkin, NJ Guy Clark Ancient Coins, Norfolk, VA Harmony Exonumia, Central Falls, RI Imperial Coins, Richmond, VA J & P Coins & Currency, Florence, AL J.J. Van Grover Ltd., Bayside, NY Jim McGuigan Coins, No. Versailles, PA Ken Earles, Ashland, VA Liberty Coins, Richmond, VA Maryland Coin Exch., Silver Spring, MD Mercury Numismatics, Merrifield, VA Minerva Coins, Manhurst, NY Paul Finck Numiamatist, Timonium, MD Premier Precious Metals, Santa Fe, NM Rahway Coins, Spotsylvania, VA Ray Burns, Ltd., Cleveland, OH Richard Nansen /CEO Coins, Glenelg, MD Robert Weikle Company, Hidenwood, VA Scotsman Coins, St. Louis, MO Steve Fisher Coins, No. Versailles, PA Tom Reynolds Coins, Omaha, NE Tom's Coins & Currency, Annandale, VA Triangle Gold 'N Cards, Durham, NC Weiss Collectable Sales, Hopatcong, NJ

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VIRGINIAN NUMISMATICS AT THE SMITHSONIAN

By Dr. Richard G. Doty

Virginia-related objects make up the largest single component of the Smithsonian Institution's National Numismatic Collection. Out of a total cabinet of 1.6 million items, Virginia can account for more than

a third of them, something over six hundred thousand pieces.

This situation is as recent as it is odd. Prior to February 1998, we had a good general collection of Virginiana, ranging from the colonial period to the twentieth century; and it will be my opportunity to tell you something about it later in this article. But while of good quality, the holding was not outstanding in size, except, perhaps, for its assemblage of obsolete currency.

Everything changed last winter: on the sixth of February, a van from the National Archives pulled into the Smithsonian loading dock and disgorged a hoard of Confederate paper money, one that had technically been ours since 1958, but which had never been transferred here for a variety of reasons. And that was when the

Virginia collection ballooned to its present size.

I have spoken and written about the background of the transfer on other occasions; here merely let me observe that the hoard began its career in Richmond late in the war. As the failing Confederacy launched its final issue of currency (under date of 17 February 1864), it launched a parallel effort to call in and cancel all earlier notes. The call-in was ultimately no more successful than the final issue as a policy of war; but the Richmond authorities soon found themselves with tens of thousands of old notes on their hands, which were dutifully cancelled and stored - and eventually transferred to Washington after the general collapse of April 1865. The hoard languished at the War Department, was eventually shifted to the Treasury - and finally to the National Archives, on a 'temporary' basis. Sixty-one years later it came to the Smithsonian's Numismatic Collection.

The National Archives hoard is an enthusiast's dream - but not in the way you might expect. That is, if you seek major and early rarities - Montgomery notes, Manouvrier products, and the like, you will seek them here in vain. People were well aware of rarities in the Confederate series within a few years of Appomattox, and the National Archives Hoard was 'cherry picked' by a succession of people entrusted with its care. But if you seek rarities within common series, inverted backs, mismatched plate letters, etc.; and if you seek information on how Confederate currency really circulated, what it

really meant to the people who used it, and how it was produced under the stress of war, then this collection is a dream come true. While daunted by its size, I am terribly glad that we have finally acquired it.

What's in the hoard? Mostly notes from 1862 and 1863, and mostly low denominations. We have about seventy thousand 1861s (almost all of them Criswell Type 36, a five dollar note dated 2 September 1861). Of the remainder, about a third are 1862 fives and tens, and the other two-thirds are fives and tens from 1863. There is also a motly assemblage of state currency (heavily pilfered in the past), and a thousand or so Confederate and state bonds, which were one of the reasons I wanted the hoard in the first place, but which I have not yet had time to examine, owing to the sheer volume of the currency. A number of dedicated volunteers are working with me on this gigantic mass of material, cataloguing it, watching for rarities and errors and noting any information which brings us closer to how people used and valued their money during wartime. Thus far we have burrowed our way through about a quarter of the whole, so there's much more to be done!

As for the remainder of our Virginia holdings, and that part of the collection which has been more fully described and organized. We have a number of pre-coin substitutes from the earliest days of the colony and even before: Roanoke (the Southern variety of wampum); nails (so popular were nails as an early replacement for coinage that the colony had to pass a law in 1646 making it illegal to burn down houses to get the nails used in their construction), and, of course, tobacco. Our assemblage of colonial paper does not begin until the early 1770s, but it is fairly extensive through the remaining days of the colony and the emerging ones of the independent state. And we are also well represented in Virginia coinage, having both the copper half

penny of 1773 and the rare shilling of 1774.

But the heart of our non-Confederate Virginian collection must be sought in the early and middle years of the nineteenth century. Our collection of obsolete bank notes and related paper is truly excellent, and it provided much of the information and many of the illustrations for the original Affleck book and its comprehensive successor. This currency, the product of banks, businesses, and even private citizens, both prior to, and during the Civil War, is one of my particular research favorites, and the images it contains of life in an earlier time will go into the making of my new book, *Pictures From a Distant Country*.

Along with two rarities from the National Archives Hoard, I have illustrated two other pieces of Virginia paper. The first comes from the classical obsolete series, a five dollar bill from the Trader's Bank of the City of Richmond. I selected it because it is illustrative of the



Traders Bank, Richmond, Va. \$5, 1861

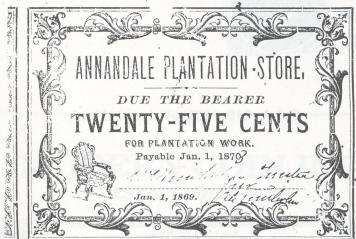
magnificent artistry of American security printing in the last century; but it is not particularly rare. The other piece is very rare, perhaps unique, and is illustrative of the confused, emergency monetary situation in existance during the first few years after Appomattox, as the defeated state and section attempted to fit newly-freed slaves into a wage economy. This note is typeset rather than engraved, and the image on the back had appeared earlier on many ordinary bank notes, including a number from Virginia.

The two pieces from the National Archives Hoard are both errors. In the first case, the issue date was inadvertently applied twice, while the second note has an inverted back. We are discovering many misprints in this Confederate material, and will likely uncover many

more before we have finished this project.

As we move closer to the present, we continue to have numismatic objects with a local significance, We have a few Virginia national bank notes (and a wealth of certified proofs for Virginia national banks). We also have more ephemeral materials, such as clearing house certificates and Depression scrip - and a large collection of state-related tokens, many of which remain uncatalogued, and which would repay the attentions of a volunteer who knows the field. This in fact is one reason for writing this brief survey; I'd like to cordially invite those with an interest in Virginia numismatics to come to the Smithsonian, see what we have - and work with it, both for their own satisfaction and for the good of a collection which, after all, belongs to the people of all of the states, including this one.





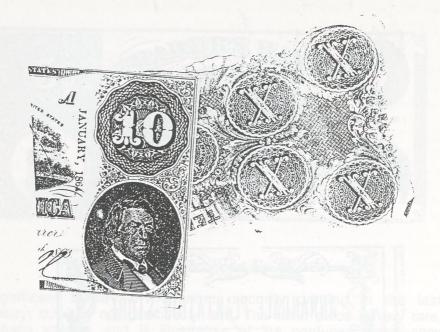
Annandale Plantation Store, 25¢, 1869, Obv. & Rev.

Dr. Richard Doty is the Curator of the National Numismatic Collection at the Smithsonian Institution. Prospective volunteers can reach him at:

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C.S.A., \$10, 1863, with inverted back



C.S.A \$10.00, 1863, with double surcharge

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ALEXANDRIA COIN CLUB. Meets at 8:00 pm on 3rd Wednesdays in the Hammond Jr. High School cafeteria, 4646 Seminary Rd. in Alexandria. For info contact Alynne Skrabalak. P.O. Box 5234. Woodbridge, VA 22194.

BLUE RIDGE COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:30 pm on last Tuesdays at the Robert Smith Studio, upstairs, at 105 North 1st St., Charlottesville, Va. For information write to BRCC, 1561 Dairy Rd., Charlottesville, VA 22903 MONTICELLO COIN CLUB. Meets on 2nd Thursdays at the Old Country Buffet on Rt. 29 N. in Charlottesville, Va. For info contact Sec.-Treas. Jim Luck. 301 E. Market St., Charlottesville, VA 22902, Ph. (804) 295-1765.

PIEDMONT COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 3rd Tuesdays at the Volunteer Fire Dept., Collinsville, Va. For information write to Piedmont

Coin Club. P.O. Box 418. Collinsville, VA 24078.

RAPPAHANNOCK AREA COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 3rd Tuesdays in Meeting Room 2 of the Central Rappahannock Regional Library, Caroline St., Fredericksburg, Va. For information contact Harry Frank, 5923 Cascade Dr. Fredericksburg, VA 22407.

RICHMOND COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:30 pm on 1st Tuesdays at the First Union Bank Bldg., 7 N. 8th St., Richmond, Va. For information contact Jim Ruehrmund, 712 Westover Rd., Richmond, VA 23220, (804) 358-0525

SALEM COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 2nd Mondays at the Roanoke Main Library, 706 S. Jefferson St., Roanoke, Va.. For information contact Emmett Yonce. 2040 Roanoke Rd. Daleville. VA 24083.

SHENANDOAH VALLEY COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:30 pm on 2nd Mondays at the Mary Switzer Bldg., Woodrow Wilson Rehab. Ctr., Fishersville, Va. For info contact Linwood Wilkes. RR 6. Box 570-A. Staunton. VA 24401

TIDEWATER COIN CLUB. Meets on 2nd Wednesdays at the VFW Hall, 4809 Bartee St., next to Toys-R-Us at Military Circle, Norfolk, Va. For information contact Malcolm Gutterman. P.O. Box 1145 Norfolk. VA 23501. VIRGINIA PENINSULA COIN CLUB. Meets on 3rd Mondays at 7:30 pm at Sammy & Nick's Steak House, 2718 W. Mercury Blvd. in Hampton. . For information write to: VPCC. P.O. Box 4324. Newport News. VA 23604.

WARRENTON STAMP & COIN CLUB. Meets on 2nd Wednesdays at TGS Hobbies, 683 Warrinton Center, 251 W. Lee Highway, Warrenton, Va. for info. contact Toni Tripi @ (540) 347-9212.

WASHINGTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY. Meets, on 3rd Tuesdays at the Washington Congregational Church, 3526 Mass. Ave., N.W., Wash., D.C. For information write to: WNS, 6167 Cobbs Rd. Alexandria, VA 22310.

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Baltimore Convention Ctr.	BALTIMORE COIN SHOW	
APR. 3. CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA	VNA, BLUE RIDGE &	
Antiquers Mall. 2335 Seminole Tra	ail MONTICELLO SPR. SHOW	
APR. 24-24. SALEM, VA	SALEM COIN CLUB	
Ametrican Legion Bldg., 710 Apperson Dr.		
APR. 24-25. VIENNA, VA	NORTHERN VIRGINIA	
Community Center	COIN CLUB SHOW	
JUN. 10-13. BALTIMORE, MD	MARYLAND STATE	
Baltimore Convention Center	NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION	
JUL. 31-AUG.1. Roanoke, VA	COLLECTORS SHOWCASE	
Civic Center	CARD & COIN SHOW	
AUG 7-8. VIENNA, VA	NORTHERN VIRGINIA	
Community Center	COIN CLUB SHOW	
OCT. 2-4. ANNANDALE, VA	VIRGINIA NUMISMATIC	
8333 Little River Tnpk.	ASSOCIATION	
OCT. 23-24. SALEM, VA	SALEM COIN CLUB	
American Legion Bldg., 710 Apperson Dr.		
OCT. 30-31. VIENNA, VA	NORTHERN VIRGINIA	
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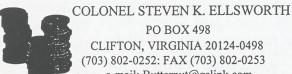
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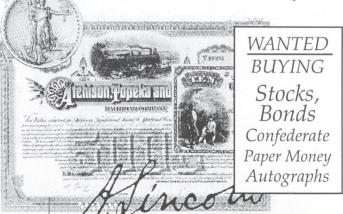


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> Volume 35 NUMBER 3 MAY 1999

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THE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST

VOLUME 35, NO. 3 May, 1999

The VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST, the official publication of the Virginia Numismatic Association, inc., is published six times per year. Articles and items for publication are welcomed and solicited. It is mailed at the 3rd Class Rate and cannot be forwarded, so be sure to send us your change of address. Send mail relating to the magazine to Jim Ruehrmund, 712 Westover Road, Richmond,

Send all correspondence about membership, address changes, etc. to Daryl C. Spelbring, P.O. Box 633, Vienna, VA 22183.

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FROM THE EDITOR

This issue may be a bit late in reaching you, but I had to delay sending it to the printer in order to include the obituary of VNA life

member Grover Criswell, who died on 8 April.

Hard on the heels of the sad news of Grover's passing came another piece of distressing news. The April 19 issue of Coin World reported that the management of the Smithsonian Institution is planning to dismantle the exhibit of the National Numismatic Collection, and place the material in storage with a few pieces brought out from time to time to be used in thematic displays. There are even rumors that all or part of the collection might be sold. Perish the thought!

Of all the outrageous, crack-brained proposals to come out of Washington, this one takes the prize. In fact, it's so outrageous that it's hard to believe that they're seriously considering such a step, but, remembering the recent Enola Gay flap, we have to take the

reports at face value.

It has been proposed that a part of the collection be moved to the U.S. Mint's new Washington facility, and put on display there, but I fear that such a move would be the first step in the dissolution of the collection. It is imperative that the National Collection remain at the Smithsonian and that it remain on diaplay. Any other course would be a national disgrace. The National Numismatic Collection is a priceless part of our national heritage; it must be preserved!

What can we do? In her editorial, Coin World editor, Beth Delsher, suggested writing to the Secretary of the Treasury, but he isn't answerable to the voters, and I doubt that our opinions would carry much weight with him. I therefore urge each of you to write to your congressman and your senators, and lay this matter before them. If enough of you will do this, we might get some action. Don't delay, act now!

Jim Ruehrmund

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I've received several letters from members in response to my comments in the March issue about not having seen any of the Delaware quarters. The first, accompanied by a shiny new Delaware quarter, came from John Magruder in Tappahannock, Va.:

Dear Jim:

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I am happy to report that the Delaware commemorative quarters are circulating well in Tappahannock. Enclosed is a quarter for your collection

Sincerely, John

The second, enclosing a treasure trove of three Delaware quarters, came from Bob Ross in Wilmington, Del.:

Jim,
Enjoy! I still read every issue from cover to cover. Keep up the good work!

Bob

Dear John & Bob,

Thanks ever so much for the coins; I'm deeply grateful to both of you for your thoughtfulness and generosity. Now that I'm awash with Delaware quarters, I plan to share them with the local junior club.

Jim R.

HOW ABOUT A BOOK COVER?

In another letter, John Magruder came up with a fine suggestion; here it is;

I have an idea for promoting coin collecting for our youth. Could someone in VNA design a book cover for students to use to cover their textbooks? The cover could show the history of coins, or coins of the last 100 years, or anything else numismatic. I would be willing to contribute financially to such an endeavor, but I don't have the capability or knowledge to design such a cover. There must be someone in VNA with graphic arts talent who can come up with the designs.

That's a great idea, John. It would certainly give us a lot of exposure at small cost. Is anyone out there willing to take on the design job? If so, please contact the editor.



GROVER C. CRISWELL, Jr. 1934 - 1999

Grover Cleveland Criswell, Jr. died at his home in Fort McCoy, Florida of a heart attack on Thursday, April 8, 1999. He was a past president and past governor of the American Numismatic Association, and also a member of the Virginia Numismatic Association from its earliest days, holding life membership No. 23.

Grover began specializing in Confederate currency back in the early '50s, when it was little regarded, and built his career around it. His books, Confederate and Southern States Currency and Confederate and Southern States Bonds are his lasting contributions

to the hobby.

For years he regularly attended our annual conventions, where his presence never failed to enliven the proceedings. Grover was a unique individual, and we are going to miss him.

Grover is survived by his wife, Dolly, to whom the Virginia

Numismatic Association extends warmest sympathy.

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SPRING SHOW IN CHARLOTTESVILLE

The 3 April Spring Show in Charlottesvile, put on by the Blue Ridge & Monticello clubs, and co-sponsored by VNA, was a well-attended and thoroughly enjoyable event, thanks to the efforts of Bourse Chairman Doug Seal. A full report will appear in the next issue.

VA. PENINSULA CLUB INSTALLS OFFICERS

The Va. Peninsula Coin Club will install the following new officers at the annual banquet on May 15:

President: Col. Alfred E. Hoshor; Vice President: Jim Ross; Secretary Treasurer: Jim Harmon; Sergeant at Arms: Andy Smith; Governors, 1999-2001: Thomas Scull and Rick Cubbins.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Between May 1 and June 1 nominations will be open for the offices of President, 1st. Vice President, 2nd. Vice President and four places on the VNA Board of Directors. Persons making nominations and candidates must be members in good standing. Send nominations to: Jim Ruehrmund, 712 Westover Rd., Richmond, VA 23220-6327, to reach him no later than June 1, 1999.

THE WALT MASON AWARD FOR 1999,

This award honors the memory of Walt Mason by recognizing those whose long-term service to our hobby have shown the same generosity, integrity and selflessness that Walt always exhibited. Nominations must be in letter form, and can be made by anyone. Nominees do not have to be VNA members, and must have been numismatically active in the area of Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, the District of Columbia, Virginia and the Carolinas. The award will be presented at the VNA convention in October. Send nominations to: The Walt Mason Fund, P.O. Box 2301, Springfield, VA 22152.

A TREASURE CHEST OF GOLD

by John Magruder

I started collecting coins at the age of 7, not because of an interest in their beauty or value, but because of sibling rivalry. As third in line of four boys, my parents involved us all in Cub Scouting in my hometown of Aldan, Pa. (suburb of Philadelphia). One of the achievements that you could earn was to start a coin collection. My father collected coins on the early 1960s, but raising four boys left him no time for hobbies. He dug out his collection, and working with my two older brothers, started them with the classic Whitman penny boards. Not to be outdone, I started hoarding pennies, and sorted them by date. Not too long after that my father gave me my first penny board. My interest in collecting coins was now fueled. As a matter of fact, my sharp eyesight netted me a 1909 VDB Lincoln cent in VF condition, that I attached to a paper airplane for another cub scout project when I was nine years old.

My brother's interest in coins waned, but mine soared. My grandfather had an extensive collection, and I often got to see it. He kept it upstairs in the drawer of a big oak desk that he had in the bedroom. It was fun to open the drawer and stand next to him as he showed me his Whitman folders of Lincoln cents, Buffalo nickels, Roosevelt dimes and Walking Liberty half dollars. He was especially proud of his dime collection because it was complete. All the coins in the folders were circulated, but he loved to buy the proof and mint sets every year. As a matter of fact, he gave me my first mint set in

1974.

I collected everything and anything, I liked to fill the Whitman folders, and collected my extras by putting them in plastic coin tubes. Once, when I bought a soda from a machine, I received a 1911 Liberty Head nickel in change. When I was 12 my father gave me his collection, and boy, was that like finding a treasure chest full of gold! I would spend hours looking at all the old coins. At that point I decided to collect one of every coin, at least one of every coin I could find in circulation.

The second merit badge that I earned when I was a scout was for coin colecting. This was the first time I had ever shown my collection to anyone outside my family. The counselor was very nice, showed me his collection, and made me aware of other collecting possibilities, like type collecting.

My grandparents traveled a bit through Europe in the late 1970s, and brought home foreign coins, like pesetas from Spain and lire from Italy. This opened my eyes to a new world of coin collecting, as other

family members or friends would travel, I would ask them to bring me coins from other countries, too.My uncle gave me a 5 lira note from Turkey that has a watermark in it, which I thought was the

neatest thing in paper money.

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My grandfather loved to show me a 3 Reichsmark Graf Zeppelin coin he had in his collection. I looked it up in world coin book when I was a kid, and it was worth \$30. I couldn't believe that one coin could be worth so much! When I was 16 years old, I earned my Eagle Scout badge, and my grandfathetr gave me that coin as a gift. Today it is a priceless coin, full of memories. When I was in my early twenties he

gave me his entire collection.

Today when I visit my parents I still look through the can of pennies and the cup of change that they keep in a drawer. My grandfather found some foreign paper money recently, and gave it to me. I started my son, age 11, and my daughter, age 8, collecting coins last year, but I'll have to wait a few years before starting my 7 month old son on his collection. They were very excited about the new Delaware quarters, and are showing interest in collecting other series. I would like to sit down with them one day and let them pick out coins from my collection to make a twentieth century type collection for the year 2000.

From time to time I have opportunities to share my collecting interest with others. Every two or three years I put on a Coin Collecting merit badge clinic for our local Boy Scout troop. It is so much fun to to see them look through a bag of pennies and find wheat cents and "S" mint marks. My daughter recently gave a report on Susan B. Anthony to her second grade class, and I donated examples of the dollar coin to each member of the class. The kids in the class each wrote me a nice thank you letter, with several commenting on how valuable they thought the coin was, or that they would keep it forever.

Maybe one day they will become coin collectors themselves.

For the present, raising three kids and starting my own forestry consulting business keeps me busy, and my collecting interest on hold. I enjoy reading *Coin World* and being a member of the Virginia Numismatic Association and the World Bi-metallic Collectors Club.

For the future, I may collect lumber company tokens some day, or try to own a \$5 gold piece from the Oregon Exchange Company. I may be related to one of the original OEC owners, Theophilus Magruder. In any event, coin collecting has some great memories for me, and I hope that one day my children and grandchildren will, like me, find their treasure chest full of gold!



OBVERSE

Uncle Sam, at right, grinds rags into money, while at left the fox is about to nab the silly geese.

THE GREENBACK PARTY

by Jim Ruehrmund

This short-lived political party was the only one, at least in this country, to have a name involving money, but, as you will see,

currency was a major theme in their platforms.

During The Civil War, Federal paper currency (greenbacks) fell in value to as little as 39¢ on the dollar in gold. After the war the value of greenbacks in terms of gold began to move upward, and by the early '70s a paper dollar was worth about 80¢ in gold. This put a tight squeeze on persons who had borrowed money in the 1860s, when it was cheap, and now faced the prospect of repaying in dollars worth twice as much as the ones they had borrowed.

The hard times that followed the financial panic of 1873 made matters worse, and out of this came the Independent National or "Greenback" Party whose chief aim was inflation of the currency

through the unlimited issue of unbacked paper currency.

In 1876, the party's first presidential candidate, Peter Cooper, the noted industrialist and philanthropist, received 81,740 votes.

By 1878 the party had merged with several labor groups, and changed its name to the Greenback Labor Party. Their platform was broadened to include planks calling for abolition of the national banking system, establishment of an 8 hour working day, a graduated income tax and universal suffrage. In the congressional elections that year they polled over 1,000,000 votes, and elected fourteen congressmen. This put the other parties on notice, and brought on a storm of anti-Greenback propaganda, which included pseudo banknotes, like the one illustrated, spoofing the Greenback platform.. In 1880 the party's candidate, James B. Weaver, received 308,378 votes, but they managed to elect only eight congressmen.

In 1884 the Greenbackers joined with anti-monopolists, and changed the party name again, this time to the People's Party. Their presidential candidate in 1884 was none other than Benjamin F. Butler of Massachusetts, the notorious Gen. "Beast" Butler of Civil War fame, (or infamy, depending on your point of view). Of all Yankee generals, Butler was, hands down, the one most cordially detested by Southerners, and very few of the 175,370 votes he received came

from south of the Mason-Dixon Line.

After 1884 the Greenback Party quietly faded away, and the satirical notes are about the only souvenirs of them we have today. Lots of them must have been produced, for they are still fairly common. The Greenbackers, however, had the last laugh; all of their aims, including currency inflation, have come to pass in this century.



REVERSE

A collection of anti-Greenback barbs. It's likely that very few who received these understood the meaning of αδελφων χρυπτοσ (secret brotherhood).

VNA WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

The following applicants, will become members of VNA 20 days from the mailing of this notice, unless objections are received, in which case the matter will be acted upon by the Board of Directors.

Applicant	Sponsor
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BLUE RIDGE COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:30 pm on last Tuesdays at the Robert Smith Studio, upstairs, at 105 North 1st St., Charlottesville, Va. For information write to BRCC, 1561 Dairy Rd., Charlottesville, VA 22903 MONTICELLO COIN CLUB. Meets on 2nd Thursdays at the Old Country Buffet on Rt. 29 N. in Charlottesville, Va. For info contact Sec.-Treas. Jim Luck, 301 E. Market St., Charlottesville, VA 22902, Ph. (804) 295-1765.

PIEDMONT COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 3rd Tuesdays at the Volunteer Fire Dept., Collinsville, Va. For information write to Piedmont Coin Club, P.O. Box 418, Collinsville, VA 24078.

RAPPAHANNOCK AREA COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 3rd Tuesdays in the cafe of Borders Books & Music, Central Park, Fredericksburg, Va. For information contact Harry Frank, 5923 Cascade Dr. Fredericksburg, VA 22407.

RICHMOND COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:30 pm on 1st Tuesdays at the First Union Bank Bldg., 7 N. 8th St., Richmond, Va. For information contact Jim Ruehrmund. 712 Westover Rd.. Richmond. VA 23220. (804) 358-0525

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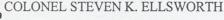
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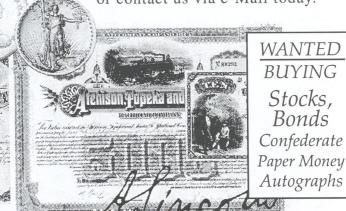


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THE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST

VOLUME 35, NO. 4 July, 1999

The VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST, the official publication of the Virginia Numismatic Association, inc., is published six times per year. Articles and items for publication are welcomed and solicited. It is mailed at the 3rd Class Rate and cannot be forwarded, so be sure to send us your change of address.

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FROM THE EDITOR

Since the '99 convention is in October, the September issue will be the convention issue this year. That will allow an additional month for convention ads and patron listings. So far the response has been distressingly small. This issue does, however, have the information on hotel accommodations. The hotel is the Best Western Fairfax at 3535 Chain Bridge Road. You'll find full information on page 5.

The last issue with my steamy editorial about the Smithsonian had already gone to press when a new issue of *Coin World* announced that they didn't plan to dismantle the National Collection after all. We'll probably never know exactly what happened in this deal, but it's comforting to know that the collection is safe, at least for the present.

Here's a curious bit of news. A few days ago, my son, James Jr., while browsing on the internet, did a search for the name "Jim Ruehrmund". What he came up with was a recent issue of the journal of the Tasmanian Numismatic Society. In it was the article on bimetallic coins from VNA's January issue. I don't know just how they obtained it, for Tasmania is half a world away from Richmond, Va., although, with the internet, it's as close as next door. Anyway, I was highly flattered that they thought the article interesting enough to put in their magazine, and I'd like to return the compliment by printing some of their stuff in this publication.

Actually, I'm very well off for articles just now, thanks to David Consolvo, Steve Ellsworth and Red Henry. Articles by David and Red appear in this issue. Steve's article, and another by Red will appear soon. Many thanks, gentlemen, your efforts are sincerely appreciated,

but don't rest on your laurels, keep up the good work!

Another interesting news tidbit appeared in the *Richmond Times Diapatch* a few days ago. At the International Piano Competition for Outstanding Amateurs held in Fort Worth, Texas, the winner, in a field of 89 contestants, was Joel Holoubek of France. The numismatic aspect of this is that M. Holoubek is a coin dealer.

Well, the royal wedding came off in high style and Sophie the Schnauzer watched her namesake getting married to Prince Edward. Wonder if there'll be a commemorative coin? If so, Sophie (mine, not

Edward's) has promised to write an article about it.

I now have specimens of all three of the state quarters that have come out so far, but, strange as it may seem, with the year almost half over, I have yet to encounter a single one in circulation. It's obvious that they're being hoarded, and you may recall that I predicted this in the July, '98 issue. Happy Collecting.

Jim Ruehrmund

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Salt Spring, FL

Dear Friends.

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Please accept my heartfelt thanks for the wonderful tribute you gave my beloved husband Grover. He was always proud to be a member of the Virginia Numismatic Association, and he enjoyed the shows he attended very much. I will hold very dear Volume 35, Number 3 of The Virginia Numismatist.

Again, my thanks to each of you.

Dolly Criswell

Richmond, VA

Dear Jim.

I have started the Smoketree Jr. Coin Club for elementary school kids in Chesterfield Co. We needed some inexpensive coins and foreign paper money, so I checked the classified ads in Coin World, and found one that offered 50 pieces of foreign paper money for \$10, and another that offered 50 pennies for \$1. The club had no funds, so I decided to purchase the items myself. I sent the orders in January, but nothing came. After a month I called Coin World, and they conducted an investigation. The person who offered the pennies finally returned my dollar, but the paper money offer turned out to be fraudulent. The person who placed the ad was collecting people's money with no intention of sending the items ordered.

I don't blame Coin World. They do their best to be careful of their ads, but can't police every one. They did send us a box of books on coin collecting, and I thank them for that, but I'm still out \$10, and the kids never got their paper money. I'm now collecting material for the 1999-2000 school year, and doing it on a zero budget, because clubs meeting in Chesterfield Co. schools or libraries aren't allowed to charge dues or other fees. My own resources are limited, so I appeal to the VNA members for donations of inexpensive U.S. and foreign coins, foreign paper money and supplies such as flips and folders, etc. Cash donations would also be welcome; a donation of just a couple of dollars

would go a long way toward helping the club.
You can write to the club at 401 Smoketree Circle, Richmond, VA
23236. The E-Mail address is gemini@richmond.net, or you can call
(804) 378-0806. We look forward to hearing from you.

Lynn Horn

The Significance of the Date "1783" on Washington Pieces

By David Consolvo

A recent article in *Coin World* on Washington colonial pieces got me wondering why so many of them were dated 1783, despite their being made several decades later. Why not 1781, the year of victory at Yorktown, which won the Revolution? Why not 1789, when Washington became the first U.S. president, or 1799, the year he died?

Perhaps the 1783 commemorated the Treaty of Paris, which officially ended the Revolution. But I think it has to do with the significance of something Washington did in 1783. It is an act which we have mostly forgotten, but at the time stunned the world. It made the rest of the world take notice of both the man and the new attitude toward government.

In 1783 Washington resigned as commander of the Continental Army, and went home to farm. The peace treaty with Britain was finally signed. Washington was the head of an army which now had experience, confidence, and, if it wanted, control. Washington was wildly popular at the end of the war - The *Philadelphia Journal* wrote, "All panegyrick is in vain, and language too feeble to express our ideas of his greatness".

For Washington to resign this position of power and to simply go home was astonishing. George III himself is supposed to have said, "if he does that, he will be the greatest man in the world". The painter, John Trumbull wrote from London that it

excites the astonishment and admiration of this part of the world. 'Tis a conduct so novel, so inconceivable to People, who, far from giving up powers they possess, are willing to convulse the Empire to acquire more.

Napoleon was referring to the same event when he said, "people would have liked me to be another Washington".

When Washington died in December, 1799, the grief in America was so great that somber parades and mock entombments, and/or ceremonies were held in several hundred cities and towns. It was then that the House of Representatives passed the resolution ending with the lines written by Richard Henry Lee, "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen".

The rest of the world was also touched. Talleyrand, the most influential French politician of the era, declared that Washington "lived for all nations and for all centuries". Even some of Washington's former adversaries showed their respect; when the

news of his death reached the British navy at Torbay, all ships of the line, nearly 60 in number, lowered their flags to half-mast. And in 1932 the Washington Bicentennial Commission found 145 monuments and other features named for Washington outside the United States.

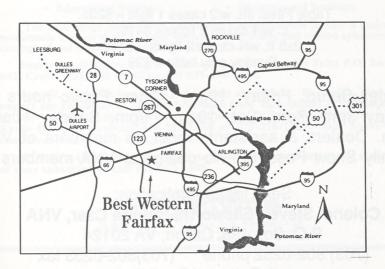
Most, if not all, of the 1783 Washington pieces were made in England. I think the main reason that Washington touched the world outside of the United States was not because he had been a general and won a war, and was not because he had been a president of a young nation. I believe it was because of his noble and selfless act in 1783, giving up power, and going home to Virginia to once again be a farmer.

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How Many Large Cents Are Out There? An 1801-07 Survey

Red Henry

How many large cents survive today, and how scarce are the varieties? Which Red Book types are really rare? Among the early-date cents, do 3% survive? Do 4% to 5% survive? Do fewer than 1% survive? What are the facts, and how can we find out?

Until recently, there were few published studies examining the true rarity of large cents. A study over 40 years ago by Dr. William Sheldon and Walter Breen established a 3% survival estimate for the cents of 1794, but the estimate was for cents of that date only. Other dates had not been similarly examined, and the rarity ratings had not been confirmed statistically.

Die varieties of the early cents have been studied for many years. The scarce varieties are well identified, and the populations of those varieties can be estimated within certain limits. Since this is the case, if we can discover the proportions which the common varieties bear to the scarce ones, we can estimate the population of the whole group.

In 1994, I began a survey of the cents of 1801 through 1807, in order to form an estimate of the cent population of those dates. Fellow members of the Early American Coppers society encouraged and assisted me in the project.

First, we had to know what was out there. We needed to gather as much information as possible on die variety proportions for the dates in question. I asked for help, and 31 EAC members nationwide contributed data. We examined as many unpicked cents as we could—that is, coins which had apparently not been gone through by experts who "cherry-pick" the scarce varieties. Large cents seen in the stocks of general coin dealers, at flea-markets, and in antique stores were typical sources of data. Col. Steven Ellsworth's published information from the Butternut Hoard was another good information source. By the end of 1998, the other survey participants and I had examined a total of 1,799 large cents.

Data on the 1801-07 varieties accumulated very consistently. Recently-submitted data is in close accord with that gathered during the

survey's early years. The rarity ratings seen by mid-1997 changed very little with the arrival of newer information, while their statistical reliability improved with the increased sample size. This gives us both statistical and common-sense confidence in the results.

To confirm the rarity ratings and estimate the population size, statistical techniques were used which are beyond the scope of this article, but here is the result: It appears that 1801-07 cent survivorship is probably about 1% of the original mintage. In other words, of slightly over 10,000,000 cents minted during those years, about 100,000 exist today.

On the next two pages is a list of 1801-07 die varieties, each with a rarity estimate from the survey. Many scarce varieties appear in the survey data. "R3+ or higher" is the highest rarity listed, since higher rarity estimates are not justified at this sample size. Red Book types, if applicable, are noted for each die variety. Some of the types include many different die varieties. Two rather rare Red Book types did not show up in the survey, namely the 1803 large date, small fraction and the 1807 small 7 over 6, so these two types do not appear in the list.

The basis of this rarity scale was developed by Dr. Sheldon in the 1940s. In the scale, rarity numbers range from R8 (unique, or nearly so) down to R1 (very common). Note that 1804 and 1806 cents, which are usually thought of as scarce dates, are actually quite common in comparison with some die varieties of other dates! In this version of the scale, the R1 (very common) varieties are distinguished from the R1- (SUPER-common) varieties.

Rarit	y number	<u>Population</u>
R8	Unique, or nearly unique	1-3 known
R7	Extremely rare	4-12 known
R6	Very rare	13-30 known
R5	Rare	31-75 known
R4	Very scarce	76-200 estimated
R3	Scarce	200-600 estimated
R2	Fairly common	600-1500 estimated
R1	Very common	1500-2500 estimated
R1-	Super-common	2500-5000+ estimated
R6 R5 R4 R3 R2 R1	Very rare Rare Very scarce Scarce Fairly common Very common	13-30 known 31-75 known 76-200 estimated 200-600 estimated 600-1500 estimated 1500-2500 estimated

1801-07 Large Cent Survey Results: Rarity Values by Date and Die Variety

Date	Die variety	Red Book type	Specimens	Rarity
1801	S-213	Normal reverse	20	2
1801	S-214	Same	12	3
1801	S-215	Same	1	3+ or higher
1801	S-216	Same	56	1-
1801	S-219	"3 errors" reverse	19	2
1801	S-220	Fraction 1/000	11	3
1801	S-221	Fraction 1/100 over 1/0	00 14	2
1801	S-222	Normal reverse	21	2
1801	S-223	Fraction 1/000	30	2
1801	S-224	Normal reverse	63	1-
1802	S-225	Same	19	2
1802	S-226	Same	6	3
1802	S-227	Same	24	2
1802	S-228	Fraction 1/000	21	2
1802	S-229	Normal reverse	16	2
1802	S-230	Same	52	1
1802	S-231	Stemless wreath	47	1
1802	S-232	Normal reverse	82	1-
1802	S-233	Same	44	1
1802	S-234	Same	3	3+ or higher
1802	S-235	Same	3	3+ or higher
1802	S-236	Same	45	1
1802	S-237	Same	12	3
1802	S-238	Same	5	3+ or higher
1802	S-239	Same	20	2
1802	S-240	Same	9	3
1802	S-241	Stemless wreath	40	1
1802	S-242	Normal reverse	30	2
1803	S-243	Stemless wreath	18	2
1803	S-244	Small date, sm. fraction	n 5	3+ or higher
1803	S-245	Same	13	3
1803	S-246	Same	9	3
1803	S-247	Same	13	3
1803	S-248	Same	7	3
1803	S-249	Fraction 1/100 over 1/00	00 15	2

Large Cent Survey Results (Page 2)

Date	Die variety	Red Book type	Specimens	Rarity
1803	S-250	Small date, sm. fraction	n 32	2
1803	S-251	Same	19	2
1803	S-252	Same	19	2
1803	S-253	Same	14	2
1803	S-254	Same	37	1
1803	S-255	Same	37	1 0 4 4 4
1803	S-256	Same	21	2
1803	S-257	Small date, lg. fraction	n 25	2
1803	S-258	Same	76	10 19161-1 NEMBE
1803	S-259	Same	11	8010113
1803	S-260	Same	110	1-
1803	S-261	Same	24	2
1803	S-262	Small date, sm. fraction	on 6	3
1803	S-263	Same	21	2
1803	S-265	Large date, lg. fraction	1 6	3
1804	S-266		19	2
1805	S-267		72	ni bila-il asigu
1805	S-268		14	2
1805	S-269		26	2
1806	S-270		111	1-
1807	S-271	"Comet" Variety	31	2
1807	S-273	Large 7 over 6	113	1-
1807	S-274	Small fraction	17	2
1807	S-275	Large fraction	25	2
1807	S-276	Large fraction	108	1-
Total	number of 1	801-07 cents examined	1,799	

Red Henry began collecting coins in 1958 at the age of 9, and now specializes in large cents. His articles have appeared in such periodicals as *Numismatic News*, *Coin World*, and the *The Virginia Numismatist*. Red received the Early American Coppers 1998 Editor's Award for his survey results and other articles published in the EAC journal, *Penny-Wise*.

VNA'S 1999 BOURSE

As of 15 June the following dealers had signed up for VNA's '99 Show:

A.E. Johnbrier's Coins, Bowie, MD Al Johnbrier Andrew Skrabalak Angel Dee's Coins, Woodbridge, VA Frank Burns B & H Coins, Jamison, PA Bach's Coin Box, Oaks, PA Daryl Spelbring Banknotes of the World, Vienna, VA Brian Kritt Ancient Coins, Burtonsville, MD. Brian Kritt Col.Steve Ellsworth Butternut, Clifton, VA Carat-Coin-Collectibles, N. Olmsted, OH Valmore J. Holmes Claire Wall Claire's Corner, Rockville, MD Ira Meltzer Coins & Collectibles, Seaford, NY Coins of the Realm, Rockville, MD Peter Bover Coleman Foster Coins, Austin, TX Collector's Choice, Virginia Beach, VA Vince Bulman Connections Coin Co., Sandston, VA Dave Riply Cotten's Coins & Currency, Cary, NC Larry Cotten David Amey, Woodstock, MD Don Bailey Don Baily Numismatic, Homer, MI Don Frederick Don Frederick, Annandale, VA Donald Apte, Inc., Vienna, VA Don Apte Donald R. Zauche, Westminster, MD Douglas F. Bird, Inc., Hermosa Beach, CA Doug Bird Dr. Arnold R. Saslow, So. Orange, NJ Fasano Bros. Rare Coins. Manahawkin, NJ Larry Fasano Robert Azpaizo First City Currency, St. Augustine, FL Forest Hill Company, Woodstock, MD GES Numismatics, Laurel, MD Glen Burger, Hampstead, MD GMB Foreign & American, DelRay Beach, FL. Gary Brown Golden Eagle Coins & JJewelry, Laurel, MD Guy Clark Ancient Coins, Norfolk, VA Guy Clark Harmony Exonumia, Central Falls, RI William Bannon Imperial Coins, Richmond, VA Jerry Schmidt J & P Coins & Currency, Florence, AL Phil Darby J.E.L. Coins, Baltimore, MD J.J. Van Grover J.J. Van Grover Ltd., Bayside, NY Jim McGuigan Coins, No. Versailles, PA Jim McGuigan Ken Earles, Ashland, VA Kenneth A. Earles Liberty Coins, Richmond, VA Ron Mirr LSCOA, Durham, NC Marshall Coin, Jessup, MD Maryland Coin Exch., Silver Spring, MD Mike Higgins

'99 BOURSE (Continued)

Mercury Numismatics, Merrifield, VA Joel Cherry Minerva Coins, Manhurst, NY Anthony Swiatek Nanson Numismatics, Gleneia, MD Richard Nansen Paul Finck Numiamatist, Timonium, MD Paul Finck Rahway Coins, Spotsylvania, VA George Shupp Ray Burns, Ltd., Cleveland, OH Ray Burns RCCA Ltd., So.Orange, NJ Robert Weikle Company, Hidenwood, VA Robert Weikle Scotsman Coins, St. Louis, MO Jerry L. Morgan The Sentry Box, Virginia Beach, VA Chris Maniscalco Tom Reynolds Coins, Omaha, NE Tom Reynolds Tom's Coins & Currency, Annandale, VA.. Thomas Moore Triangle Gold 'N Cards, Durham, NC Alan Flowers U.S. Currency, Brandon, MS Wake Forest Coins, Wake Forest, NC Weiss Collectable Sales, Hopatcong, NJ Lorraine Weiss

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VNA MEMBER CLUBS

ALEXANDRIA COIN CLUB. Meets at 8:00 pm on 3rd Wednesdays in the

Hammond Jr. High School cafeteria, 4646 Seminary Rd. in Alexandria. For info contact Alvnne Skrabalak, P.O. Box 5234, Woodbridge, VA 22194. BLUE RIDGE COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:30 pm on last Tuesdays at the Robert Smith Studio, upstairs, at 105 North 1st St., Charlottesville, Va. For information write to BRCC, 1561 Dairy Rd., Charlottesville, VA 22903 MONTICELLO COIN CLUB. Meets on 2nd Thursdays at the Old Country Buffet on Rt. 29 N. in Charlottesville, Va. For info contact Sec.-Treas. Jim Luck, 301 E. Market St., Charlottesville, VA 22902, Ph. (804) 295-1765. PIEDMONT COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 3rd Tuesdays at the Volunteer Fire Dept., Collinsville, Va. For information write to Piedmont Coin Club. P.O. Box 418. Collinsville, VA 24078. RAPPAHANNOCK AREA COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 3rd Tuesdays in the cafe of Borders Books & Music, Central Park, Fredericksburg, Va. For information contact Harry Frank, 5923 Cascade Dr. Fredericksburg, VA 22407. RICHMOND COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:30 pm on 1st Tuesdays at the First Union Bank Bldg., 7 N. 8th St., Richmond, Va. For information contact Jim Ruehrmund, 712 Westover Rd., Richmond, VA 23220, (804) 358-0525 SALEM COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 2nd Mondays at the Roanoke Main Library, 706 S. Jefferson St., Roanoke, Va.. For information contact Emmett Yonce, 2040 Roanoke Rd, Daleville, VA 24083. SHENANDOAH VALLEY COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:30 pm on 2nd Mondays at the Mary Switzer Bldg., Woodrow Wilson Rehab. Ctr., Fishersville, Va. For info contact Linwood Wilkes, RR 6, Box 570-A, Staunton, VA 24401

TIDEWATER COIN CLUB. Meets on 2nd Wednesdays at the VFW Hall, 4809 Bartee St., next to Toys-R-Us at Military Circle, Norfolk, Va. For information contact Malcolm Gutterman. P.O. Box 1145 Norfolk. VA 23501. VIRGINIA PENINSULA COIN CLUB. Meets on 3rd Mondays at 7:30 pm at Sammy & Nick's Steak House, 2718 W. Mercury Blvd. in Hampton. For information write to: VPCC. 140 Wellesley Dr., Newport News, VA 23606. WARRENTON STAMP & COIN CLUB. Meets on 2nd Wednesdays at TGS Hobbies, 683 Warrinton Center, 251 W. Lee Highway, Warrenton, Va. for info. contact Toni Tripi @ (540) 347-9212.

WASHINGTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY. Meets, on 3rd Tuesdays at the Washington Congregational Church, 3526 Mass. Ave., N.W., Wash., D.C. For information write to: WNS, 6167 Cobbs Rd. Alexandria, VA 22310.

THE SOCIETY DOES NOT MEET IN JULY AND AUGUST

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JUL. 31-AUG.1. ROANOKE, VA	COLLECTORS SHOWCASE
Civic Center	CARD & COIN SHOW
AUG. 7-8. VIENNA, VA	NORTHERN VIRGINIA
Community Center	COIN CLUB SHOW
AUG. 11-15. CHICAGO, IL	AMERICAN NUMISMATIC
Rosemont Convention Ctr.	ASSOCIATION
AUG. 13-15 MYRTLE BEACH, SC	COLLECTORS SHOWCASE
Convention Ctr., Oak St. & 21S	T. Ave.
AUG. 20-22 RALEIGH, NC	COLLECTORS SHOWCASE
Kerr Scott Bldg.NC St. Fairgrounds	
OCT. 2-4. ANNANDALE, VA	VIRGINIA NUMISMATIC
8333 Little River Tnpk.	ASSOCIATION
OCT. 23-24. SALEM, VA	SALEM COIN CLUB
American Legion Bldg., 710 A	pperson Dr.
OCT. 30-31. VIENNA, VA	NORTHERN VIRGINIA
Community Center	COIN CLUB SHOW
NOV. 12-14. BALTIMORE, MD	SUBURBAN BALTIMORE /
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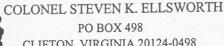
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ADVERTISING COPY DEADLINES

The deadline for all copy is the first of the month preceding month of issue (e.g., April 1st for May 10th issue).

THE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST

VOLUME 35, NO. 5 September, 1999

The VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST, the official publication of the Virginia Numismatic Association, inc., is published six times per year. Articles and items for publication are welcomed. It is mailed from Hampton, Va. at the 3rd Class Rate and cannot be forwarded, so be sure to send your change of address. Send mail relating to the

Send mail relating to the magazine to:Jim Ruehrmund, 712 Westover Road, Richmond, VA 23220

Send correspondence about membership, address changes, etc. to Daryl Spelbring, PO Box 633, Vienna, VA 22183.

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FROM THE EDITOR

The American Numismatic Society (ANS) in New York is seeking to complete its file of back issues of *The Virginia Numismatist*. I was able to supply most of the ones they needed, but they still lack the following issues: 1966, #4 (Aug.); 1969, #4 (July/Aug.) and #6 (Nov./Dec.); 1972, #s 2,3,5 & 6; 1973, #s 5 & 6; 1974, #s 1,5 & 6 and 1975 #4. That goes pretty far back, but if any of you have copies of the missing issues, and would care to part with them for a good cause, please send them to me, Jim Ruehrmund, 712 Westover Rd., Richmond, VA 23220-6327. VNA will reimburse you for the postage.

A few weeks ago an ad in the Sunday edition of the Richmond Times Dispatch caught my eye. It was an offering of ancient Roman coins, a commodity you seldom see advertised in the local papers. Although ads offering coins appear fairly often, they're usually for common U.S. Coins at grossly inflated prices, accompanied by a lot of fullsome hogwash about the rarity and historic significance of the junk offered. This ad was, in general, like the others, except that the coins offered were small bronzes (AE 3s) of the Roman Emperor Constantius II, who reigned from A.D. 337 to 361. They were reportedly from a hoard recently discovered in New York City. That was news in itself, for I never knew that the Romans had an outpost in New York. The blurb went on to extol the great antiquity (over 1600 years old) and historic value of these dirt-common coins, offered at the "bargain" price of \$16.00 each. I do hope that few suckers rose to the bait, for the same coin can be had for around half that price from dealers, and in better condition, too. If you hanker to own an authentic ancient coin, better check around with your local dealers before answering any newspaper ads. Actually, the prices mentioned are small potatos in a market where coin prices in four to six or more figures are routine, but not all of us are in that league, and it disturbs me to see common coins fobbed off as rarities on the ignorant.

A few days ago I was highly gratified to learn that this magazine was the recipient of the 3rd place award in the regional category of ANA's Club Publications Contest. I was unable to go to Chicago, and the award was received for VNA by Col. Steve Ellsworth. Thanks again to all who submitted articles during 1998.

Jim Ruehrmund

VNA's 41st ANNUAL CONVENTION - 1999

The 1999 VNA Convention and Coin, Currency & Collectibles Show will be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 1-3, at the R.J. Ernst Community Cultural Center, Northern Virginia Community College, 8333 Little River Turnpike (Rt. 236), Annandale, Va, Va. To get there from I-95, take I-495 (Washington, D.C. Beltway) west to exit 6W, Little River Turnpike. The show site is on the left, about .5 mi. from the beltway . Signs will be posted to guide you.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

As you read in the July issue, the convention hotel this year is the Best Western Fairfax at 3535 Chain Bridge Rd. (Rt. 123) in Fairfax, Va. The rate is \$59.00 plus tax per night, single or double. To make reservations, call (703) 591-5500.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The election ballot has been sent out as a separate mailing, with a return envelope. Please mark your ballot and send it in promptly.

VNA BUSINESS MEETING

The quarterly meeting of the VNA Board of Directors will be held Sunday morning. Business will include certification of elections and plans for 2000.

BOURSE

The bourse will open to the public at 3 PM on Fri. & at 10 AM. on Sat. & Sun. Admission is free. The bourse will close at 4:00 PM on Sunday to give the dealers time to pack up and get on the road.

No insurance will be carried on bourse materials, but full time guard service will be maintained for the duration of the show.

SPECIAL SUNDAY OFFER FOR VNA MEMBERS

If you are a VNA member, and would like to set up as a dealer on Sunday, Oct. 4, you can get a table with two cases and a light for just \$39.00. The number of available tables is limited, and they will be assigned on a first come first served basis. To obtain information or an application, contact the Bourse Czar,

Col. Steven Ellsworth
P.O. Box 498, Clifton, VA 20124
Phone (703) 802-0252 Fax (703) 802-0253
email: Butternut@gslink.com

EXHIBITS

Share your interests with others by mounting an exhibit.
Contact Exhibit Chairman, Henry E. Hawkins, Rt. 11, Box 190,
Harrisonburg, VA 22801; phone (703) 433-2223 to obtain entry
forms and reserve space for your exhibit. If you have display cases,
please bring them with you. VNA does, however, have a limited
number of cases which will be assigned on a first come first served
basis. If you will need some of VNA's cases, let Henry know promptly.

No insurance will be carried on exhibits, but full time guard service will be maintained for the duration of the show.

MEMBERSHIP & DUES

Membership applications will be available at the registration desk. The \$8 dues paid by new members joining at the convention cover membership through the end of 2000, so do make it a point to enlist one or more new members. Also, you can pay your 2000 dues of \$8.00 at the registration desk, and save VNA the trouble and expense of sending you a bill next January.

COME AND HAVE FUN

This year's show will be every bit as great as last year's, so don't miss it. It's an opportunity to look over the stocks of numerous dealers you've never met before. Meet with old friends, and make some new ones. Bring your family. While you're enjoying the show, they can find plenty of interesting and entertaining things to do, for the area offers great shopping, memorable restaurants, and cultural attractions and historic sites are numerous. There's something here to please everyone, so come and join in the fun.

VIRGINIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

41st ANNUAL CONVENTION, SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, October 1

10:00 AM-3:00 PM - Dealer Registration / Setup 3:00 PM-7 PM - Bourse open to General Public 7:00 PM - Bourse Room Closed to All. 7 - 8 PM Rag Pickers Gathering - Dance Room

Saturday, October 2

8:00 AM - Bourse Room Open to Dealers
9:00 AM - Public Registration
9:30 AM- Early American Copper Soc. Meets in Lecture Rm. D
10:00 AM - Ribbon Cutting / Show Open to General Public.
10:15 - 3:00 PM Young Numismatists Program in Lecture Rm. D
12:30 PM - YN Money Grab. Exhibit Area
1:30 PM - "Treasure in Your Pocket"- Dance Room
Anthony Swiatek
2:30 PM - YN Money Grab. Exhibit Area
3:00 PM - "Silver Dollar Collecting" - Dance Room
Al Johnbrier
6:00 PM - Bourse Room Closed to All

Sunday, October 3

7:30 - 8:00 AM - Annual VNA Meeting & Breakfast 8:00 AM- Setup for Sunday's New Dealers Only 9:00 AM - Bourse Room Open to Dealers 10:00 AM - Bourse Open to General Public 12:30 PM - YN Money Grab. Exhibit Area 4:00 PM - Bourse Closes - Convention Closes

VNA'S 1999 BOURSE

As of 9 Aug. the following dealers had signed up for VNA's '99 Show:

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J.J. Van Grover

'99 BOURSE (Continued)

Jim McGuigan Coins, No. Versailles, PA Ken Earles, Ashland, VA Liberty Coins, Richmond, VA LSCOA, Durham, NC Mark's Coin, Fortson, GA Marshall Coin, Jessup, MD Maryland Coin Exch., Silver Spring, MD Mercury Numismatics, Merrifield, VA Minerva Coins, Manhurst, NY Nanson Numismatics, Gleneia, MD Paul Finck Numiamatist, Timonium, MD Pegasi Numismatics, Holicong, PA R.M. Smythe, New York, NY Rahway Coins, Spotsylvania, VA Ray Burns, Ltd., Cleveland, OH RCCA Ltd., So.Orange, NJ Robert Weikle Company, Hidenwood, VA Scotsman Coins, St. Louis, MO Terry Hess Tokens & Coins, Clemmons, NC The Elusive Spondilix, Union, NJ The Sentry Box, Virginia Beach, VA Tom Reynolds Coins, Omaha, NE Tom's Coins & Currency, Annandale, VA Triangle Gold 'N Cards, Durham, NC U.S. Currency, Brandon, MS Wake Forest Coins, Wake Forest, NC

Weiss Collectable Sales, Hopatcong, NJ

Jim McGuigan Kenneth A. Earles Ron Mirr

Mike Higgins Joel Cherry Anthony Swiatek Richard Nansen Paul Finck Nick Economopoulos

George Shupp Ray Burns

Robert Weikle Jerry L. Morgan

Chris Maniscalco Tom Reynolds Thomas Moore Alan Flowers

Lorraine Weiss

VNA'S 40th ANNIVERSARY

This September marks the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the Virginia Numismatic Association, and its first convention, held in Virginia Beach in September, 1959. The moving spirit behind the organization was the late Charles J. Affleck of Winchester, but Charlie did not wish to hold office, and the honor of the first presidency went instead to the late Ernest M. Seneca of Princess Anne, which is now part of Virginia Beach. Charlie died in 1974 and Ernest in 1977, but both are never to be forgotten by those who knew them. Of the thirty two charter members, three are still with us, Doug Spencer (11) of Harpers Ferry, West Va., Joann Klotz (17) of Norfolk and Reed Walton (32) of Hampton. From that small beginning membership has grown to its present level of 521 members in 28 states. VNA has changed a lot in 40 years, but it's still a vital force for our hobby.

VNA THANKS THE FOLLOWING PATRONS

FOR THEIR SUPPORT

OF THE 1999 CONVENTION

Ginnie Aldridae Alan Blair Parry Bragg Mike Capen Neil A. Chiappa Guv DeWolf Gale Ellsworth Awesome Ellsworth Jake Ellsworth Jasmine Ellsworth Steve Ellsworth Barbara Hannah Billy Hannah Marge Hannah Forest Hannah Frank Hannah Keith & Ellen Littlefield Katie Littlefield Sam Littlefield

Ron Mirr Mark J. O'Hara Jim & Elsie Ruehrmund Jessica E. Ruehrmund Shauna R. Ruehrmund Stevie S. Ruehrmund Sophie S. Ruehrmund Jerry & Ruthie Schmidt David S. Scott Jane N. Scott Rachel Ann Scott Guy R. Swanson David W. Washburn Brittany Washburn Christopher D. Washburn Sarah Ann Washburn Susan S. Washburn Larry White

VNA WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

The following persons, who have applied for membership in the Virginia Numismatic Association, will become members 20 days from the mailing of this notice, unless objections are received, in which case the matter will be acted upon by the Board of Directors.

Applicant		Sponsor
Gordon W. Berg, Rockville, Maryland	Steven	Ellsworth
Arthur D. Miller, Springfield, Virginia	Steven	Ellsworth
Louis B. Pearlman, Three Bridges, New Jersey	Steven	Ellsworth
Pete Savage, Silver Spring, Maryland	Steven	Ellsworth
Tony Sullivan, Owings, Maryland	Steven	Ellsworth
Richard Washabau, Herndon, Virginia	Steven	Ellsworth

ROY JAMES HOTTINGER 1916 - 1999

Roy James Hottinger of Lexington, Va., died at his home on July 12, 1999. A native of Rockbridge County, he retired from Burlington Industries after 39 years, and was a U.S.Army veteran of World War II. He was a member of VNA for twenty years, having joined in 1979 as member No. 859.

Roy is survived by his wife, Myrtle W. Hottinger, two sons, Ronald M. and Myron J. Hottinger and one grandchild to all of whom the Virginia Numismatic Association extends sincere sympathy.

EARLY BIRDS

Early bird badges for admission to the bourse before it opens to the general public, and good for all three days of the show, will be available again this year for a fee of \$50.00. However, VNA life members who wish to have early bird badges can have them free of charge. All early birds must sign in at the registration desk, and anyone on the bourse floor before the opening must have a badge.

BIG TIME COIN COLLECTING

Talk about your coin collectors! Chuck Shepherd's column, *News of the Weird*, recently included a tidbit about a guy in Miami, Fla., who was the administrator in charge of processing coins collected from parking meters. He was demoted for failing to deposit about \$150,000 worth of coins collected over a four year period. He probably hadn't finished checking them for good dates and mint marks.

ROYAL WEDDING COINS

According to a somewhat terse article in the 5 July issue of *Coin World*, the wedding of Prince Edward of England and Miss Sophie Rys-Jones has inspired commemorative coin issues by the Isle of Man and the Republic of Sierra Leone. The coins come in gold, sterling silver and cupro-nickel. Sophie the Schnauzer is tickled pink at her namesake's marrying a genuine prince, and hopes to do an article on the coins, once she's managed to obtain one. So far, despite a dogged search, not even a cupro-nickel one (about all her budget can afford) has turned up. She has high hopes of securing one at the VNA Convention, and if she's successful, you'll hear from her.

BUTTERNUT BITES: #4 Coins and Home Security

(This is the first of three articles regarding security of coin collections.)

"DEALER ROBBED" "COLLECTOR BURGLARIZED" These are headlines that appear almost weekly in the major numismatic publications. It has been previously said that one out of three collections will eventually be stolen. Many are never reported. The impact is not only financial, but emotional as well. A sense of violation occurs that is difficult to describe. The loss has a negative impact to the victim in particular and to our hobby in general. Simply put, it's bad for business.

The age-old adage "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" could never be truer than with coin security. The easiest way to prevent crime is to avoid it by not giving criminals the opportunity to perpetrate their crimes against you.

In hopes of keeping the "joys of collecting" enjoyable and the dreams alive, these guidelines should help reduce the risks of theft to collectors and dealers. After studying hundreds of thefts, it is my belief that nearly always, one or more of these guidelines have been ignored. Security risks can never be eliminated, but they can be managed to a tolerable level. Security is a constant. Vigilance must always be maintained. Be alert and aware of your surroundings. Criminals avoid vigilant persons.

Some of these suggestions you may already know about and practice. Some may be new that you could put into practice. Few people can do all that I suggest, but the more suggestions you implement, you lower your risk of being a target and eventually a victim. Hopefully, my recommendations and suggestions will be useful and helpful to most collectors and dealers...if they continually practice and use them.

Most security can be developed and divided into four parts: *operational-perimeter-external* and *interior-security*.

Operational security is how you operate or refers to as "your mode of operation" You need to ask yourself; "What kind of target am I"?

Perimeter security is considered in the immediate area near the target...your coins and collection. As an example, in home security your property line to your home would be the perimeter.

External security is considered the outside shell or walls of your home or car. Internal security is inside your car, home or anywhere you can physically touch your coins. Your objective should be to try to think of ways you can protect and improve on each of these four areas.

Operational:

Sanitize your home address by using a post office box on any coin publications and mailings. If you are a professional collector or dealer, your home address should be removed from the phone book, listing only your name and town. Don't forget about your stationary, envelopes, business cards and checks. I recently gave a personal check with my street address to another dealer, who unfortunately suffered a theft, which included my check. Will the thief assume

that the address on my check is another potential target? Also, insure that your trash does not give away that you are a dealer or collector of rare coins.

Insurance is an excellent idea for both collectors and dealers. The normal costs are approximately 1% a year. For professional collectors and dealers, this cost is a deductible expense. Most policies have a number of restrictions and exceptions including coins left in unattended vehicles. Some homeowners' policies will cover small coin theft, but many have exclusion clauses. Read your insurance policy carefully.

Of you operate a coin business out of the home, never invite customers to your home. Meet at a local bank, or other secure public location to show, sell or buy coins. Likewise, do not travel to an unknown collector's home to purchase coins with cash. Many a collector or dealer has been set up in this manner.

Perimeter:

If you live in a rural area or a location that lends itself to a fence, install one. Even a simple split rail, three plank or a low three-foot picket fence will make most thieves uncomfortable entering. Add a gate on the walk or driveway and you double the level of mental stress for a thief.

A dog can be a wonderful companion and loving family pet. To a thief they are their worst nightmare. Unknown intruders that intend to do harm, most dogs identify. They have a keen sense that most humans have not developed. What kind of dog is best? Buy a couple of dog books, read and determine what is best for you and your family. My thoughts are the bigger the better. My personal favorite is the English Mastiff. They are very sweet and loving dogs and rated number one with children. They are nicknamed the gentle giants, since they weigh over 200 pounds. However, with a mouth that can rival a grizzly, a provoked Mastiff can snap a person's leg in half. Add a second dog to the equation, and you have compounded the thief's problem. Noise is not conducive to a successful burglar. Even a small barking dog hinders a perpetrator. Most female dogs tend to be slightly more protective, and slightly more intelligent than males.

A few well-placed external lights should on at night or have motion sensors that will turn them on. Thieves do not enjoy working at night in lighted areas. However, most home burglaries occur on weekday mornings' between 9:30 and 11:30, not by professionals, but by amateurs who may be skipping school, either to support a drug habit or simply for thrills.

If you are away, don't forget to have your mail and newspaper stopped. A stack of mail or newspapers also announces your absence. In the summer, have your lawn cut when you are away and let your neighbors and local police know that you will be away. Keep the shrubs and bushes trimmed around the house to make a concealed hiding place difficult.

External:

If you do not have an alarm system, get one! I would not own a tool shed without an alarm. It is sad, but true that most alarm systems are installed after a burglary. I would recommend that you use a company that is well known in your community for a couple of reasons. First, service. It is important to have quick rapid service and repair. Second, name recognition. The alarm signs themselves are a deterrent. The signs and stickers should be at the property's

entrance, as well as on ground level windows and doors. Simulated stickers or signs are of little use. Thieves know the real alarm signs from the phonies. There are several nationally know companies, but ADT, Honeywell and Brinks are the most widely used. An alarm system should not be kept a secret.

If possible, a silent central alarm system is best. At a minimum it should cover all doors and have at least one internal motion or pressure sensor. Thieves almost always roam the house in search of your special hiding places, and given enough time, will usually find them. A couple of motion sensors or internal door or mat sensors will do the trick. The alarm cables need to be buried and protected by metal conduit. A back-up battery system with at least a 12-hour cell will enable your system to work in power outages. Whether you work out of your home, office or have a coin shop, I recommend a silent panic button. They are a low cost, when installed in conjunction with the alarm system you have chosen. Don't forget to include smoke and fire alarms in your system as well. The added cost is minimal, and your additional objective is to try to protect life, as well as property.

Door locks should be double-keyed, double-sided dead bolts. Internal latch dead bolts are not as secure, since a thief can break a hole in the glass or door, reach through and turn the knob to gain entry. Regardless of how the thief gains entry into your home, the double-keyed dead bolt will prevent a quick exit for the burglar to carry your stolen property. In most home burglaries the bed linen is usually taken. The purpose is not so the thief can get a good night's sleep, but rather the bed itself is the collection point with each layer of bedding acting as a ready made satchel. A normal two-bedroom home will provide a minimum of ten satchels for your property. If the thief's entry point is through a small window, exiting with large amounts of your property is hindered. Your objective should be to make the entry and exit very time consuming. A determined thief will gain entry, the question is how long will it take, and how long for them to escape. Security chain locks are unreliable as they can be pulled out of most doors or door jams with a slight jar. Steel doors and frames offer better protection. On any new moves, have the locks changed. Even if you haven't moved, change your locks every five years. Get into the habit of keeping your doors locked, even when home or working in the yard. Also, keep your garage door down and locked. Most garages will have some valuable tools that may be of help to the burglar.

Never let a stranger into your home. In an emergency, you should make the phone call for help, on behalf of the stranger. If strangers say they are from an authorized service, phone to insure that the service call is authorized. Service people expect this and are not offended by it. And never tell a stranger you are home alone.

Internal:

A beautiful display of rare coins and currency has no place in a home or office. An alternative is photos of your prized or valuable coins. Most likely a photo album would be something that a burglar would not want. They could also be used should your collection be stolen in recovery and identification purposes. One of the coin-grading services offers a unique photo service for collectors considering this option.

The best idea is to display your coins at a local coin show as an exhibit. This way many people can share in your collection that would not only understand its value, but would appreciate your numismatic efforts. Not only is it fun, but you may get ideas to improve your display to

enable you to exhibit at a larger regional or a national show in competition. This seems to me to make more sense than keeping your coins at home and risking a burglary, or hidden in a bank vault for time and eternity, never to be seen or shared with anyone.

Use an answering machine that is silent or that the volume can be turned very low when answering calls. Some burglars carry cell phones and simply dial your number and listen at your door or window to see if they can hear an answer machine. A continuous ringing phone is a signal that it is clear to enter. I prefer a phone network answer service, with no machine at all. When you are away for any extended length of time, set your answer machine or service to "no ring" or immediate pickup. Be sensitive to your phone message, one that announces that you are away on vacation for two weeks will not do.

Two or three lights that turn on at different time settings would be another good idea. A slightly loud radio or stereo left on could also help give the illusion that the premises are occupied.

Use a bank safety box for the majority of your coins. Don't make the mistake of filling it with common date proof, mint sets and low-grade inexpensive coins. Today most tennis shoes are worth more money than all but a couple of proof or mint sets. Unless you lock your shoes in a safe deposit box, use the safe deposit box for only the most valuable gold proofs or and your more expensive coins. A word of caution is that most banks do not insure against both burglary and fire. For large collections, I would recommend multiple boxes in multiple locations.

If you decide to use a safe, a small home safe would probably do for the coins you are currently studying. The safe needs to have a bugler entry time of at least 15 minutes (TL-15) and have a minimum Class C fire rating. A safe with a TL-30 is even better. Older safes use older technology. Don't forget to bolt it to the floor from the inside if the safe could be carried or dragged from your home. Larger cabinet safes, weighing 300 lb. or more will provide more security. Your alarm can also be connected to your safe with numerous specialized electronic security features. Be sure to place it on a solid cement floor, in a semi-hidden place.

If you have already purchased a small cheap safe, your money has not been wasted. Place it in the master bedroom, filled with some cheap costume jewelry and a few inexpensive coins along with a perhaps \$100 in cash. Tape a paper with the combination to the outside. Should a burglar gain access, they may be content with the "dumb" owners and not vandalize your home in their frustration of trying to open the hidden, more secure safe.

A concern to be considered when making a decision to purchase a safe. Will a safe that prevents a common burglar access, invite them to return as an armed robber? Large or valuable collections stored at home could be inviting to an armed robber. When a bandit is holding a gun on you or a family member, even the most secure safe should be opened immediately. Some of the newer models automatically send a silent alarm if opened under duress. There have been only a few home-armed robberies for coins. And in those robberies, I only know of a few that resulted in a murder. The overall number of robberies is only a fraction of the number of burglaries that occur each year. Unfortunately, organized crime groups are now routinely targeting many known jewelry and coin dealers. According to a

recent Washington Post article, robberies of traveling dealers in Los Angeles have become epidemic.

Firearms

Guns are just as high a target for a burglar as coins jewelry or cash. Many violent crimes are committed using stolen guns, which are quickly sold by the burglar for cash on any street corner in America. Unsecured firearms in a home can very dangerous for family members. If children are in the premises, secured guns are becoming law in some states. Trigger locks are effective (most manufactures include one with a new purchase of handgun) but may hinder access in an emergency. Hiding a gun only means a game for kids to hunt and find it. Telling children, "do not touch" simply will not work. This all in itself presents a dilemma. How can a firearm be used for home security, if it is secured properly?

A possible solution to this dilemma is a new high tech, quick access safe lock-box for handguns is now available. The lock-box safe uses a number sequence computer chip to activate a spring-loaded door opening for instant authorized access. It comes with a external secure base-plate allowing the safe itself to be removed from the inside. This makes the security system portable. Additional base-plates may be purchased for use in the office or for vehicle trunks. It offers one of the best way to secure a handgun, at a nominal price.

And finally, you must ask yourself "do I have the will to use a firearm in a life-threatening situation?" This is most likely the most important question that you will need to address. It is a very serious consideration, and one not to be taken lightly.

Should your personal decision be to own a firearm, first be professionally trained on its safe and proper use. Most communities, police departments, shooting ranges and the National Rifle Association either offer, or can suggest basic firearm classes. Only after you have become proficient in the use of a firearm should you purchase one. Second, be legal. Check with your local police and obtain any necessary permit(s) or license(s) for it.

While the federal gun legislation receives much more media attention, state legislatures and city councils make far more laws in regards of firearms. As of 1999, there are over 20,000 active gun laws on the books in America. Unfortunately, there are few consistencies between city, county and state laws, when it comes to firearms.

As of now, 42 states have laws allowing an honest citizen to obtain a concealed weapon permit. Some states even recognize permits from other states. Three states have laws that require a possession permit be obtained prior to the purchase of a handgun. The District of Columbia does not allow any handgun to be carried, owned or even transported through the District. Three states consider it a felony to transport a loaded firearm in a vehicle. Arizona, where freedom and firearms are a tradition, few people are questioned by police about guns, other than to satisfy the officers curiosity as to the make, model and price an individual paid for a gun. In Kennesaw, Georgia, all homeowners are required to own a weapon, as it is a misdemeanor <u>not</u> to have a gun. It is up to the individual to know what the laws are in their city, county and state and to consider them in their decision process. A professional firearms trainer and the NRA can assist you in determining what the laws are in your community.

Most states prohibit a weapon to be introduced, unless the situation is life threatening. Three elements must be present in order to defend your right to use deadly force. A criminal must exhibit first, intent. Second they must have the opportunity. And third, they must exhibit the ability to do physical harm to you or your family. A scuffle in the street, or even a demand for your collection, may not be considered life threatening in some states.

If you are in a robbery situation where you can give up your coins to the robber, without a threat of your or family's life, do it. According to a U. S. Department of Justice study in January 1985, if you are at home when a criminal forcibly and illegally gains entry, you have one chance in three of becoming a victim of violence. Should you hear an intruder in your home, phone 911 using a cell phone (which leaves you mobile and impervious to land line interruption), let them know you are armed, and find out if they are responding with plain clothes officers or uniformed police. After reporting the situation, leave the line open so it can be monitored. If you and your family can quickly and quietly escape the house, do it. Under no circumstances, even if armed, should you try to "clear the house". Let the police who are trained to do so handle it. If you find yourself trapped in a room, most likely your bedroom, lock the door, and announce loudly to the intruder that the police are on the way, and that you are armed, and you intend to fire, should they try the door. If you are fortunate, the intruder may leave.

Have an emergency exit plan for you and your family. Make sure that your escape plan is not only for potential intruders, but for a fire as well. Ensure that you have flashlights in the designated "safe areas". An annual practice run would not be a bad idea. Make sure you know where all the family members are, and where each member should go if an intruder has entered.

What type of weapon should you choose? At home, a 12-gauge pump shotgun with #4 buckshot shells gives you an advantage over nearly all intruders. Few people in a life-threatening situation could hit a target with anything less. Shotguns are not magic however; they still need aimed firing techniques in order to be effective. One advantage of the pump is that even the slowest-witted miscreant recognizes the sound of chambering a shell in a pump-shotgun. If your decision is to own a handgun for personal protection, be sure to purchase it from a reputable and licensed dealer. A medium to small size, semi-automatic, clip fed, modern double action 9 millimeter to 45 caliber is preferred. If you are very concerned about firepower, such as on the highway, a 357 or 44 magnum handgun is what many state troopers carry. If you buy one, insure that it fits your hand. After a session on the range, you'll be glad you did. All should be loaded with hollow point ammunition for maximum effectiveness and firepower.

Whatever weapon you choose have a documented professional to train in its use, for safety, liability and effective self-defense. It makes no sense owning any gun if you do not maintain proficiency in its use. As a minimum, three hours of practice, two times a year on a regulation gun range, with an expenditure of at least 50 rounds each session, is required to maintain any degree of competency. To become an expert, two hours every other week is needed. Most professionals will use the range to expend their old ammunition, rotating cartridges every six months. If possible, occasionally practice in dim lighting. After a session at the range, the weapon should be thoroughly cleaned.

I know of a number of Dealers, who are legally licensed to carry a gun, but who have had the same rounds in it since they bought it, many, many years previous. Some have never fired it and probably think there is an on-off button on it. Should they require the weapon's use, they would be very ineffective. Most likely it would misfire or jam. It makes little sense to carry a dirty or inoperable gun, loaded with stale rusted ammunition, with little or no training.

Remember, if the unfortunate situation should occur that requires you to discharge a weapon in self defense, your life as you currently know it, will change forever. The legal and emotional ramifications are enormous. On the other hand, it may be better to be judged by 12 of your peers than carried by 6 of your friends.

This paper is not intended in any way to be a legal or tactical guide. All information is from open non-restricted sources. Your thoughts and ideas are always welcomed. Address them to: Colonel Steven Ellsworth, c/o **BUTTERNUT**, Post Office Box 498, Clifton, Virginia 20124-0498. e-mail: Butternut@gslink.com

Col. Steven Ellsworth is a retired Army Colonel with over 32 years of service. Among his many assignments include serving in the Army's elite Special Forces or Green Berets, as a Ranger and as a Pathfinder. He has had assignments as a Physical, Intelligence and Communication Security Inspector. He has received specialized training in anti-terrorist, physical, intelligence and personal protective security. He currently is a full time coin dealer and collector and serves as the American Numismatic Association's District Delegate for Virginia.

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FAKE CONFEDERATE ID DISCS

by Peter Bertram (LM74)

I somehow can't help but feel that these fakes are the cruelest hoax of all to invade our hobby. Imagine spending a good deal of hard earned money to acquire a priceless coin that is engraved with the name of a Confederate soldier who actually carried it as an ID Disc during the War Between the States. What a treasure to be cherished - until you discover that someone is producing them in quantity and you're being ripped off!

The strongest evidence against these fakes is the weight and size discrepancy exhibited when each is compared with a genuine coin. Even taking into consideration the wear and the holes, the weight difference is too much. The size differentials as compared



illustrations at 150% MBR#:RFF121

Courtesy Dr. W. Moorefield Maker - Unknown

36mm wide (1.417") x 37mm tall (1.457") : 22 grams A genuine US Silver Dollar of this period is uniformly 38.1mm in diameter, weighs 26.73 grams and has a full, even, reeded edge.

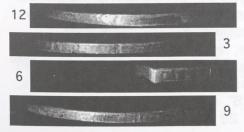


illustration at 150%
These edge images are of 12:00 o'clock, 3:00 o'clock, etc from the obverse side. So 12 is above

Liberty's head and 6 is the bottom edge where the hole is.



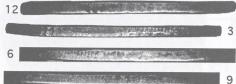
illustrations at 150%

MBR#:RFF122 Courtesy Dr. G. Finlayson

Courtesy Dr. G. Finlayson Maker - Unknown

37.6mm wide (1.48") x 38mm tall (1.496") : 19.2 grams

A genuine US Silver Dollar of this period is uniformly 38.1mm in diameter, weighs 26.73 grams and has a full, even, reeded edge.



These edge images are of 12:00 3 o'clock, 3:00 o'clock, etc from the obverse side. So 12 is above Liberty's head and 6 is the

bottom edge where the date is.

to a genuine coin are even more telling - coins don't shrink! In each case a difference between the measurements of the vertical axis and the horizontal axis gives each piece a slightly oval appearance.

The size and weight factors, combined with the fact that only a remanent of the reeded edge is present, hint at a more sinister origin - the pieces may have been cast! Reeding is very difficult to reproduce unless one has the proper equipment and dies for coining. Add in varying thickness between specimens and the fact that each exhibits pitting in the surface and we have the factors characteristic of the casting process.

The engraving is well done, appears period-like and carries the name of a *real Confederate soldier*. Most authentic period items I've seen that were engraved or scratched on by soldiers, however, tended to be only "CS", not "CSA".

The uneven and extreme wear on the "coins" is also a concern, albeit less so than the size and weight problems. Let us suppose that Mayo, Pender, Vairin, et al did have them engraved as ID pieces. The coins would likely have been at most two or three years old at the time of engraving, i.e. still relatively new. If worn by a neck chain or carried as a pocket piece there should be relatively little additional wear. These specimens, however, exhibit the equivalent of many years of heavy use in daily commerce - clearly inconsistent with what they purport to be.

I've examined the Mayo, Pender and Vairin fakes, and I saw a Washington fake offered on E-Bay but was unable to secure an image. So these are the "ID Discs" I'm currently aware of:

- · Col Joseph Mayo, Jr : 3rd VA Inf : fake silver dollar
- Lt Col Dorsey Pender: 1st NC Regiment: fake silver dollar
- · A.L.P. Vairin : 2nd Mississippi Vol : fake half dollar
- Robert F. Bunting: 8th Texas Cavalry: fake half dollar
- · James B. Washington : fake silver dollar : IMAGE WANTED!



illustrations at 150%

MBR#:RFF123

Courtesy Dr. W. Moorefield Maker - Unknown

29.5mm wide (1.161") x 30.5mm tall (1.201") : 10.6 grams

A genuine US Half Dollar of this period is uniformly 30.6mm in diameter, weighs 12.44 grams and has a full, even, reeded edge.



The edge images are of 12:00 o'clock, 3:00 o'clock, etc from the obverse side. So 12 is above

Liberty's head and 6 is the bottom edge where the hole is.

There was no wide spread production of ID tags ("dog tags" in later years) in the South during the War Between the States. Almost more than death, the average soldier feared being killed and buried in some remote place where his family would never find him or know what happened to him. Soldiers thus often fashioned their own ID devices out of almost any available material wood, metal, paper and ves, even coins. If you are lucky enough to encounter one, original Confederate ID items are extremely rare and quite expensive. There is, therefore, a firm motivation to churn out these fakes!

BUNTING fake



illustration at 150%
[MBR#:RFF124]

Photo by Charles S. Harris Courtesy North South Trader's Civil War

All the "ID Discs" I've seen bear the names of actual Confederate soldiers-and their unit designations are correct! This information is, however, available to anyone willing to do a modest amount of research. Taking advantage of this fact, a particularly insidious twist was observed in a recent sale. An "ID Disc" was offered along with a typescript of the soldier's wartime journal. Ms. Nancy Rossbacher, Editor of North South Trader's Civil War Magazine, got on the phone and found the original journal in a Mississippi library. The journal was authentic but the disc was certainly not. Joining the fake with the authentic almost gave a false authenticity to the fake!

Ms. Rossbacher has been tracking these discs and is currently at 40 some odd with the Pender fake being the most numerous. With all this casting of U.S. coins going on, you'd think that the Federal authorities might take an interest - didn't they used to call this counterfeiting!? But no, inquiries in this direction were *unofficially* told that the Feds aren't interested in the small stuff - it has to involve big bucks! But if you are relic hunting around Park property and happen to get caught with \$20 worth of dug bullets, your life is ruined. Your government in action!

- The Confederate MBR (Medals, Badges, Ribbons) Newsletter Peter Bertram, Editor: P.O. Box 451421; Atlanta, GA 31145: Vol 3, #5 (Sept 1998); Vol 4, #1 (Jan 1999)
- E-mail communications with Ms. Nancy Rossbacher, Editor of North South Trader's Civil War Magazine

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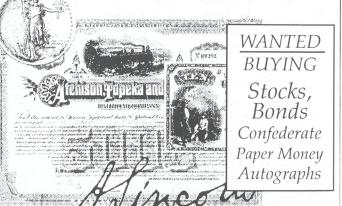
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The Virginia Numismatist

VOLUME 35, No. 6 November, 1999

The VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST, the official publication of the Virginia Numismatic Association, is published six times per year. Articles and items for publication are welcomed. It is mailed from Hampton, Virginia, at the 3rd Class Rate and cannot be forwarded, so be sure to send your change of address.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Col. Steven K. Ellsworth, VNA President

Another great convention has come and gone. It was a terrific show and convention with 100 tables and a great mix of dealers from all over the country, excellent lectures and exhibits. The Bureau of Printing and Engraving had an exhibit of over \$100,000,000,000.00 in uncut sheets of currency. The club volunteers are to be commended for the great job and all the work they do in putting on such a great show. Simply put, the VNA would not exist without all the help by so many members. Next year, be sure to put it on your calendar. You will be glad you did.

I would like to congratulate and welcome the new officers and directors that were elected. It will be as fine a group as any previous president has had the opportunity to work with. I look forward to a great year. Mike Capen has done a terrific job as President. We all owe him a vote of thanks for a job well done. I hope to continue the great work he has started for the club.

The only ding in the convention was that Jim Ruehrmund had a stroke on his way to the event. Fortunately, he was able to pull off the road and call for assistance. I have talked with Jim, and he and Elsie are doing better, even though his therapy seasons will go on for months. We all wish him the very best for a speedy recovery. Already, Red Henry has taken over the duties as Associate Editor of the magazine, to help Jim out. Claire Wall has stepped up to take over the Treasurer job, which also will relieve some of the work from Jim. Clay Everhart will take over the duties of the minutes of the meetings. Mike Capen, Jim Belcher and Andy Skrabalak will help out with the Young Numismatists programs. Stuart Jones has been working hard on our State and Federal tax status. Daryl Spelbring is doing an outstanding job of keeping track of all the memberships as Secretary. We never knew how much Jim was the glue which kept VNA together all these years. Frankly, we do not know how he did it all.

Virginia Beach has been selected as the site of our 2nd Annual Spring show. It will be held in May, 2000. The dates are not yet firm, (waiting on site availability), but the Tidewater Club is on top of it as it promises to be another great show. If you are not aware, last year the board approved establishing a co-sponsored spring show that would move around to different locations throughout the state, to bring the joys of collecting to as many areas in the state as possible.

Please feel free to call, write, email or fax me with any thoughts or ideas you may have to improve our club. In the meantime, spread the word, and our membership applications. As of January 1, 2000, we will have a modest dues increase of \$2 so that we can give more support our youth programs. We have also added a Family membership for \$15, so we will not duplicate our mailings to the same address. Also, Life members of VNA receive "Early Bird" entrance at all VNA sponsored shows, something you may want to consider when renewing your membership.

FROM THE EDITOR

Jim Ruehrmund

Dear Friends,

As many of you probably know, I ran into some tough luck on the first of October. I missed the coin convention! In addition I suffered a stroke which left my left side paralyzed. I'm now engaged in working my way back at the Health South Rehabilitation Hospital; learning to walk again. Many thanks to all who have sent cards and good wishes. I'm deeply touched by all of the support I have received from friends and family.

As ever, Jim Ruehrmund

Associate Editor Red Henry

By the time you receive this issue, many of you will already have heard of the reason for its slight changes in appearance. This magazine's editor, publisher, and jack-of-all-trades Jim Ruehrmund suffered a stroke on Friday, October 1st while on his way to the annual VNA Convention in Annandale. Jim is now in therapy. He's in good spirits, and working hard at recovery.

Since Jim had performed so much work for VNA for many years, his illness meant that others of us had to pitch in and do our part. In recent months, Jim had already relegated some of his duties as VNA Treasurer and Secretary to others, but for his principal remaining job as editor and publisher of this magazine, a volunteer was suddenly needed to fill in. Months ago, Jim and I briefly discussed the idea that I might edit the magazine some day, and as sometimes happens, that "some day" is suddenly *now*.

I have tried to keep the format and appearance of the magazine as close as possible to Jim's conception, and Jim and Elsie have given a lot of help with information and material. However, certain changes were inevitable, since I have re-constituted this publication on my own computer, from scratch, in the last 10 days. Advertisers and clubs, please check your ads and listings, and let me know of any corrections or changes. I have checked everything as carefully as time allowed, but some items may have slipped by.

As mentioned above, Jim is making progress with his therapy, but it will be some time before he can get back to editing and writing. In the meantime, he will appreciate your cards and calls with best wishes for his recovery. Until further notice, advertisers, clubs, authors, and all others with correspondence, please send any information for this magazine to me at the address below. Thanks!

Red Henry, P.O. Box 2498, Winchester, VA 22604 e-mail: <redhenry@visuallink.com> (No attachments, please.)

1999 VNA CONVENTION REPORTS

Mike Capen

The Virginia Numismatic Association held its 41st Annual Convention from 1-3 October. Like last year, the convention was held at the Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale, Virginia. The convention was well attended from start to finish, with over 1000 people attending for the second year in a row. The attendees were not disappointed, as a sold-out bourse with over 100 dealers were waiting to offer them a variety of numismatic items. The Bureau of Engraving and Printing was also there with their exhibit.

In addition to having the bourse to cover, there were many other activities for the attendees to choose from. There was an Early American Copper meeting Saturday morning. In the afternoon Marc Surrency, a counterfeit specialist with the United States Secret Service, gave a presentation on "Counterfeit Money." This presentation was well-attended, and no one was disappointed. Marc brought many examples of counterfeit currency and everyone in attendance got to look at the currency first hand. This was a special treat even if you weren't a paper money enthusiast. Sunday morning started out with the annual VNA meeting and breakfast. The breakfast was free for all members. The show continued at a steady pace on Sunday even though it was a perfect day outside and the Redskins were playing in town. Both days there were special activities on the bourse floor for Young Numismatists (YN's). Jim Belcher, from Waynesboro, did an outstanding job with the YNs. He held a YN Money Grab both days and worked with the YNs to further their numismatic knowledge. Jim is a definite asset to the VNA, and deserves all our thanks for setting up and running the YN program for two days.

No convention would be complete without the VNA Board Meeting. It was held at 6:15PM Saturday after the bourse closed. The first order of business was for out going President Mike Capen to install the new officers elected by you the membership of VNA. The ballots for the election had been sent out August 17, 1999, to all life/regular members and member clubs. The total number sent was 442 ballots. The total number of ballots returned was 179 for a 42% voting percentage. This was by far the highest voter percentage in VNA history. The results of the election were President, Steve Ellsworth; 1st Vice President, Red Henry; 2nd Vice President, Clay Everhart; and Directors, Keith Littlefield, Ray Haymaker, Claire Wall and Stuart Jones. After the installation, President Steve Ellsworth went through the agenda and adjourned on schedule. Of note are two items that were approved at the Board Meeting. First, Regular Dues will be raised to \$10 a person starting January 1,2000. Second, it was approved that the Tidewater Coin Club will co-host the 2nd Annual VNA Spring Coin Show in May with VNA.

For those of you who missed the 41st Annual Convention, start making your plans to attend next year. It promises to be a "don't miss" event in the new millennium.

1999 VNA CONVENTION REPORTS

David Scott

I was at the convention on Saturday only. The crowd was good and steady. There was that good "hum" on the bourse floor. I think dealers were busy with collectors, and collectors seemed to be spending. The Young Numismatist program was extremely well received. Jake Belcher and a school teacher from Richmond were really a hit with the young people.

I worked with Mike Capen and two ladies on the registration desk 90% of the day. Our Obsolete Bank Note book was selling, as well as the token book.

To me the real success was the YN program.

Red Henry

Collector activity was good on Friday afternoon, the only day I could attend the convention. I upgraded several large cents, including 1798/7, 1801, and 1814, from some copper dealers, and then I picked up some economical Greek and Roman bronzes for my collection of ancients. This convention was a good opportunity to find these nice collector-grade coins.

I stayed until closing time at 7:00. As I was leaving, Mike Capen, at the front desk, said that admissions were at or above last year's excellent Friday figures. Congratulations and thanks are due to those put this event together!

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1793 "Ameri" Flowing-Hair Cent, Chain Reverse

Paul E. Garland

1919-1999

VNA member Paul E. Garland, obsolete currency expert and highly respected contributor to our hobby, passed away on September 19th, 1999. Paul, VNA Life Member #24, was 80 years old. After a stay of several weeks in the hospital, he died at home after a battle with lung cancer.

Paul was originally from Maryville, Tennessee, and was born May 19, 1919. He began collecting coins in the 1920's. His college education was interrupted by World War II, when he entered the U.S. Army and served in the European Theater. This service in Europe gave him opportunities to expand his interest and knowledge of foreign currency.

Back in the USA, Paul ran his own trucking company in Michigan until he became a full-time coin dealer in 1964. He then served as president of the Tennessee, Alabama, South Carolina, and Blue Ridge numismatic organizations, and authored the field's standard reference on the obsolete currency of Tennessee, published in 1983.

Paul married the former Edna Lamb of LaFollette, Tennessee, and the couple had three sons. Paul is described by friends as "a fantastic guy" and will long be remembered with affection by those who knew him.

Howard E. Spain

Howard Elmore Spain of Waverly, Virginia, a member of VNA from its early days (#R145), died on 14 September at the age of 88. He was a notable collector and student of Virginia obsolete currency, and a contributor of information for the VNA books *The Obsolete Paper Money of Virginia* (1968) and *Virginia Obsolete Currency* (1994).

Howard is survived by his son, Milton F. Spain, his daughter, Virginia Spain Bradley, and seven grandchildren, to all of whom the Virginia Numismatic Association extends most sincere sympathy. He also leaves behind a host of friends. He will be greatly missed.



1795 Draped Bust Silver Dollar

VNA WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

The following persons, who have applied for membership in the Virginia Numismatic Association, will become members 20 days from the mailing of this notice, unless objections are received, in which case the matter will be acted upon by the Board of Directors.

	Sponsor
read-fit	information and the justicities
L86 L88 L91 L87 L85 L89	M. Capen (new member) (Was regular #1471) (Was regular #1544) M. Capen (new member) S. Ellsworth (new member) D. Spelbring (new member) (Was regular #1261)
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	L88 L91 L87 L85 L89

Correction: New member Harold E. Thomas' name was misspelled as "Thoman" in the July issue. We apologize for the error.

Letter to the Editor

I've been in the VNA since the late 1960's. I have seen any number of good people come and go, many of whom are now past away. Many of them gave unselfishly of their time and energy and also money to help build a state numismatic organization of which we all could be very proud. In my view the VNA has in recent years moved away from its roots and has become much more commercial in its outlook, losing much of the prime purpose for which it was created. People meeting to enjoy a hobby and each other and to share information and the joys of our hobby. You notice I used the word "hobby" and not "business". Do we now place our show locations each year to suit the pleasure of the dealers and not of the membership to which the organization is meant to serve. Again a while back when "people" meant more than the almighty dollar, our state show moved around the state to bring the enjoyment of the state show to people in all parts of the state. Let's plan shows for the members to enjoy as they visit different parts of our great Commonwealth while attending our VNA conventions. If we plan more diverse and enjoyable shows we will have more attendance no matter where the show is held. Let us try to have a more balanced show for all in the future. Remember people are the VNA and "business" is not our business.

Sincerely, William Caperton, LM-011

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The Fredericksburg and Valley Plank Road Company By Dr. Keith E. Littlefield



Figure 1. James McGuire, Treas'r; John A. English, Pres't

The sovereign hinterland of Fredericksburg, established in 1727, extended westward beyond the Blue Ridge and the natural watershed of the Rappahannock River into the Shenandoah Valley from the late 1700s to the early 1840s. Commission merchants and retail shops in town conducted a brisk trade for agricultural surplus in exchange for manufactured goods. Although hinterland piracy from the Louisa Railroad Company/Virginia Central Railroad (1836) and the Orange and Alexandria Railroad (1848) threatened this backcountry trade, the parallel investment and state support to the Swift Run Gap Turnpike (1810-1852) and the Rappahannock Canal (1811-1860) were sufficient cause for the legislature to stymie early attempts by Fredericksburg to establish its own westward railroad as early as 1836. The only feasible alternative was to construct a plank road.

From 1845 to 1857 the popularity of plank roads was driven by period engineering studies promoting the virtues of plank roads: construction cost for canals ranged from \$5,000-\$7,000 per mile, railways \$10,000-\$15,000 per mile and plank roads about \$2,000 per mile. It appears that plank roads offered a panacea to farmers and merchants alike an affordable year round transportation route. The basic construction techniques called for planks 8 feet long, 3-4 inches thick and 6 inches wide to be laid side-by-side across 24 inch x 4 inch stringers which were placed approximately 5 feet apart to bear the weight of the wagon wheels. All plank roads were tilted slightly to allow drainage into a ditch and they were covered with a skim coat of sand to help reduce wear

on the planks. In most cases the planks were alternately staggered 2-3 inches for easier mounting by wagons and, given their weight, the planks were not normally anchored to the stringers. The right of way was usually 40 feet with approximately half of that becoming a road bed not exceeding 3 degrees of grade. This allowed a single track of planks for loaded wagons and a turn-off, or second unplanked track for passing and unloaded wagons making the return trip. With a uniform surface of planks the smoothness allowed larger loads to be carried greater distances, with less stress on the animals or fewer animals being needed, and decreased turnaround time to market to more than offset the cost of tolls.

On February 2, 1850 the Fredericksburg and Valley Plank Road Company was authorized by the General Assembly to support construction of a plank road from Fredericksburg to the Blue Ridge at a capitalization of \$100,000 in 2,000 shares at \$50 per share. The subscription books were opened in Spotsylvania, Orange, Greene, Madison, and Culpeper counties.



Figure 2. 1853 Stock Certificate, Robert B. Marye, President

Even with the state subscription (3/5ths) the capitalization scheme was somewhat tenuous. An 1854 installment notice from the Fredericksburg and Valley Plank Road Company requesting timely payment indicates that from its inception, the Secretary Treasurer waged a constant battle to secure the funds obligated by the stockholders as evidenced by the postscript: "...unless the Installments are promptly met, the work will have to be suspended for want of Funds to pay the contractor."

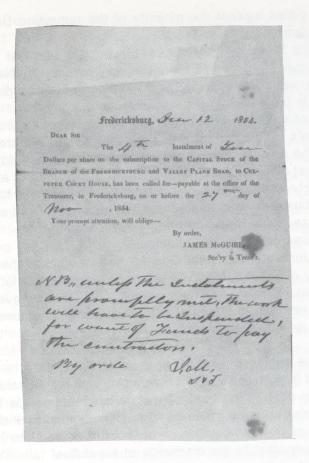


Figure 3. 1854 Installment Letter

With the initial \$100,000 it was anticipated that 31 1/2 miles could be built, bringing the road to within 7 1/2 miles of Orange Courthouse. Robert B. Marye was elected president in a landslide and Leonard H. Dunlop was appointed Chief Engineer to commence the surveys. The honeymoon on the Board of Directors of the Fredericksburg and Valley Plank Road was a short one and by July, 1850 the internal fireworks had started. The exact nature of the rift was somewhat disguised by the seemingly petty disagreements which festered into a series of major public confrontations requiring intervention by the Board of Public Works (BPW). The personalities involved can simply be characterized as Peter Goolrick, the third highest vote getter on the Board of

Directors, pitted against the majority of the remaining Board members and citizenry of Fredericksburg.

Peter Goolrick, a three term Mayor, was also the largest property holder in Fredericksburg, owning 39 pieces of property valued at over \$59,000. Although his occupation was listed in the 1860 census as a merchant, age 61, inspection of the Tappan Manuscripts from the Dun Collection at Harvard's Baker Library reveals that although his credit was good he was rather slow paying his bills and, in 1861, a claim against him could only be collected "at the point of a bayonet." He was one of the wealthiest men in town but his dry goods business was small; his influence was derived solely from the size of his rental property and the number of merchant tenants under his influence.

By June of 1850 Peter Goolrick had impeached the competency of Dunlop due to "a rather delicate" matter "of a domestic nature" related to his previous job. Goolrick even obtained a reversal to the inital letters of recommendations which were no less than glowing:

"...the engineers we had were neglectful in the discharge of their duties and did not employ one half of said time to their duty. Mr. D[unlop] was rather intemperate in the use of drink so much so as if he had of continued to drink as much liquor as he did would have very soon rendered him entirely incompetent to the discharge of his duties" ... "rumors reached here of a domestic nature that would not of justified his employ if true."

The Board hired another engineer, E. H. Gill, to check Dunlop's survey and it was found to be accurate and efficiently located. Goolrick continued to take exception to the survey and he also attempted to defeat the construction contract by resigning as a director and making the surprise announcement that he had been appointed proxy for the state, giving him an additional 240 votes. Ironically enough Goolrick's letter of acceptance as state proxy was dated 9 days after he had declared his appointment and decided to play his ace. His acceptance letter was brutally honest; "I cheerfully accept the appointment and shall perform my duty as the agent to the best of my ability and as if I was acting for myself."

Despite his efforts to derail the vote to ratify the contract with the Charlottesville firm of Wright & Coleman it passed 391 to 310 - only eight negative votes were cast by individuals other than Goolrick. Goolrick was not willing to accept this humiliating defeat without a fight and the Board of Directors counterattacked by submitting a memorial to the BPW flatly stating that Goolrick had violated, dishonored and "prostituted" the pledged faith and legal obligation of the proxy by voting against the expressed wishes of the overwhelming majority of the private stockholders. Peter Goolrick then contended that the Fredericksburg and Valley Plank Road Company had erroneously estimated and cast votes for the Corporation of Fredericksburg and the County of Orange throwing the ratification of the construction contract into question.

The root cause of this entire sordid affair was purely financial greed. Goolrick's contention was that Dunlop had "been exceedingly favorable to certain locations which would make greatly to the advantage of some eight or ten persons [or mercantile houses] while it evidently would depreciate every other part of the town." Dunlop's route entered the upper end of town on Commerce Street (now William St.) which was the traditional route to Orange Courthouse. The bulk of Goolrick's property was located south of George Street and along Main Street (now Caroline Street) at least one block off and perpendicular to Commerce Street. Goolrick's property, including the Farmers' Hotel, was concentrated towards the lower end of town nearer the steamboat landing which explains his distaste for Dunlop's route and his desire to have the route redirected. This precipitated a long drawn out process of memorials and accusations being exchanged with the BPW which eventually resulted in the proxy being allocated to a consensus vote of three individuals, one of which was Peter Goolrick, thereby emasculating his authority but allowing him to save face.

Prior to this compromise, the negative pressure of Goolrick's campaign forced Dunlop to resign as engineer by December 24, 1850 after work had started on the road October 15, 1850. The total cost of this initial section, when completed just shy of Orange Courthouse, amounted to \$100,413 for a cost of \$3,188 per mile, which equated to a

50% cost overrun in comparison to initial estimates of \$2,000 per mile.

A second act passed March 3, 1851 allowed for the increase in the capital stock of an additional \$50,000 (1,000 shares). This increase was made in order to effect the extension from the previous terminus 7 1/2 miles from Orange Courthouse to Liberty Mills (changed to Somerset in 1853). Orange Courthouse was finally reached by mid-May in 1853 and Liberty Mills by that October for a total distance of 45 miles. Part of the delay in reaching Liberty Mills was due to the rugged terrain and the increased grading required, as well as a lack of quality lumber west of Orange Courthouse causing it to be cut and hauled from the east an average of 10 miles. By May of 1854 a competing Valley turnpike heading east had reach Gordonsville, no doubt due to its linkage to the Virginia Central Railroad that had existed there since January 1, 1840, and the Liberty Mills branch became a dead end.

A third act passed March 22, 1853 authorized an additional increase in the capital stock of the Fredericksburg & Valley Plank Road Company by an additional \$74,000 (1,480 shares) for a branch road to Culpeper Courthouse. To the dismay of those in Culpeper, Fredericksburg citizens did not subscribe to any of the stock although R. B. Marye in his annual report of May 19, 1854 stressed the importance of completing this branch to Culpeper and connecting Culpeper to an improved turnpike at Madison Courthouse to "turn back the tide of trade, which is now setting from the counties of Culpeper and Rappahannock to Alexandria." By July of 1854 the branch road had almost been extended 7 miles to Germanna, but by October of 1855 the work was suspended because Orange County reneged on its branch subscription of \$2,750.

The cost for a wagon going to Fredericksburg and returning to Orange Courthouse was \$2.20 per round trip. Tolls collected more than covered repairs, but did not come close to covering total expenses needed to operate the road. Most of the repairs were required on the sections closest to Fredericksburg since they received the most traffic and typically the road crew consisted of the superintendent and a laborer with a horse and a cart traveling along the road conducting maintenance.

As seen the following table, by 1858 loss of trade from Orange and environs westward greatly impacted toll receipts and the company's ability to maintain the road. The significant repair costs in 1857 and 1858 reflect the cost of plank and superstructure replacement starting in the sixth year instead of the eighth year as previously projected. Maintenance on the branch from Orange to Liberty Mills was discontinued and the trade to Alexandria and Richmond conceded, permanently declaring Fredericksburg's efforts to access to the Shenandoah Valley ineffectual.

PLANK ROAD TOLLS AND REPAIR EXPENSES 1852-1861

Year	Miles	Tolls	Avg. Toll per mile/yr.	Toll Keeper Expense (#)	Repair Expense	Avg Repa per mile	
1852	31.5	\$ 799	\$25	\$ 90 (2)	\$ 133	\$	4
1853	45.0	\$4,637	\$103	\$416 (3)	\$1,491	\$	33
1854	45.0	\$6,388	\$142	\$495	\$1,443	\$	32
1855	52.0	\$6,170	\$119	\$667 (4)	\$1,003	\$	19
1856	52.0	\$6,322	\$122				Sichar etc
1857	52.0	\$6,185	\$119	\$685 (4)	\$3,041	\$	58
1858	52.0	\$4,819	\$ 93	\$604 (3)	\$2,714	\$	52
1859	38.5	\$2,495	\$ 65	\$371 (2)	\$1,734	\$	45
1860	38.5	\$2,665	\$ 69	\$401 (2)	\$1,882	\$	49
1861	15.0	\$1,796	\$120	\$200 (1)	\$1,737	\$	116

Source: Annual Report of the Board of Public Works. Richmond: State Printer, 1852-1860. The 1856 report was not found.

On March 9, 1860 the legislature passed an act allowing the BPW and private stockholders the right to convey their interest in any turnpike or plank road to the county or counties "in which said road may lie ... provided the Board of public works shall not transfer any turnpike or plank road that can in their opinion be made productive or self-sustaining." It appears that the purpose of this act was to allow unprofitable ventures to be formally thrown back to the counties as public roads where at least minimal maintenance might be affected by the 'road tax.' The portion of the plank road in Orange County, including the branch to Germanna starting at Wilderness junction, was abandoned. The impact of the Virginia Central Railroad and the O&A joining in

Gordonsville in 1853 undermined the Fredericksburg and Valley Plank Road and reduced Fredericksburg's hinterland by 76% with local commerce being reduced by 70%. The loss of trade meant ruin for those merchants in town which has traditionally been misattributed to the Civil War.

The Fredericksburg and Valley Plank Road was busiest from 1854 to 1857. Given the normalization of toll receipts to and from Orange and Fredericksburg at \$2.20 per round trip, the average number of wagons on the road during this time was 36 wagons per day on the road and a like number in town, loading, unloading and conducting business. By 1861 the tolls couldn't even cover repairs, much less the salaries of the toll keeper and officers. Over its 11 year history, tainted by nasty infighting among Fredericksburg's leading merchants, the company had three presidents and five engineers. The one constant was James McGuire, Secretary / Treasurer, whose signature appears on the 5¢ Fredericksburg and Valley Plank Road Company scrip note dated Dec. 1, 1861. By then John A. English had been elected President. This scrip issue appears on white or blue paper and at least three different plate positions have been identified.

Given the disappointing history of Fredericksburg's canals, turnpikes and plank roads, the deplorable condition of the infrastructure improvements in 1861 prompted the 1869 Real Estate book of Marye, Fitzhugh & English to state that the plank road and branch to Germanna "by reason of the vicissitudes of war, are in bad condition." While the Fredericksburg and Valley Plank Road Company had suspended its operations by 1862, it is interesting to note that a public auction of railroad, canal, plank road and turnpike company stock was held by the BPW on February 5th, 1872, and it contained stock from the Fredericksburg and Valley Plank Road which would have been essentially worthless. By 1883 the old plank road was simply described in the Fredericksburg's City Ordinance historical sketch as "an excellent graded dirt road."

Reference: Littlefield, Keith E. 1999. "Economic Challenge and Mercantile Enterprise in a Southern Urban System: A Case Study of Fredericksburg, Virginia, 1835-1880." Ph. D. diss., University of Maryland, 96-129.

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MONTICELLO COIN CLUB. Meets on 2nd Thursdays at the Old Country Buffet on Rt. 29 N. in Charlottesville, Va. For info contact Sec.-Treas. Jim Luck, 301 E. Market St., Charlottesville, VA 22902, ph. (804) 295-1765.

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WANTED: Wooden nickels with buffalo facing right. Describe and price. Ginnie Aldridge, 515 Pinehurst Ave., Colonial Heights, VA 23834

WANTED: ELKS-Both BPOE & IBPOEW tokens. Price & describe in 1st letter. J.M. Boswell, P.O. Box 428, Gambrills, MD 21054-0428

WANTED: All foreign paper money, scrip & notgeld + US MPC & CSA notes. Daryl C. Spelbring, P.O. Box 633, Vienna, VA 22183, (703) 938-7267

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TME YIRGINIA NUMISMATIST

JANUARY - FEBRUARY, 2000

Inside-





Virginia's Cross Pistareen:
A Two-Bit Colonial of Distinction

—Tom Kays



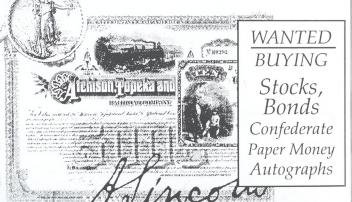
Which Comet Was It?
The 1807 "Comet Variety" Large Cent

-Red Henry

ISSN 0507-1194 VOLUME 36 NUMBER 1

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THE YIRGINIA NUMISMATIST

VOLUME 36, No. 1 January-February, 2000

The VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST, the official publication of the Virginia Numismatic Association, is published six times per year. Articles and items for publication are welcomed. It is mailed from Hampton, Virginia, at the 3rd Class Rate and cannot be forwarded, so be sure to send your change of address.

Send mail relating to the magazine to Red Henry, P.O. Box 2498, Winchester, VA 22604.

Send correspondence about membership, address changes, etc., to Daryl Spelbring, P.O. Box 633, Vienna, VA 22183.

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President's Message

Col. Steven K. Ellsworth, VNA President

As we end the millennium, what an amazing 1,000 years it has been. Who would have been able to imagine how much the world has progressed in the previous 1,000 years. Interesting to think about the next 1,000... especially since we have only had radios, televisions, airplanes and computers for less than 100 years! It makes one wonder just how fast technology is accelerating.

Coin collecting in this country only began in the 1820s, and now look how much interesting and important research has been done in numismatics. Some of it has been done by our own VNA members, which is also most noteworthy. The new State Quarter program is in my opinion the most significant thing to occur in United State coinage since the move from Large Cents to Small Cents in 1857. The number of new and interested collectors, and the public at large, that could be attracted to the joys of collecting is enormous.

I would challenge every VNA member, whenever possible, to use the new quarters as a method to share their knowledge of numismatics and the fun of collecting. With only 5 quarters per year, and each of the 50 states participating, the 10-year program will be a long-term one. As all of us know who have put together a collection of coins or currency, that too is a long-term project, as there are no prizes for speed. I myself have been putting together collections since 1955, and consider myself still a student.

Maybe we could all give away quarter boards, that could be filled by young numismatists. It would be a great legacy for the new year, and the new millennium. Till next issue, please feel free to call, write, email or fax me with any thoughts or ideas you may have to improve our club. In the meantime, spread the word, and our membership applications.

Steven Ellsworth, President, VNA

VNA Notes...

The proposed new Virginia Numismatic Association constitution is printed in this issue, beginning on page 5. VNA members, please clip or xerox the constitution ballot form on page 8, fill it out, and send it in. Your response is important, as we are adopting our first new constitution in many years.

Please note that VNA annual dues have changed. The new Individual membership rate is \$10.00, but Junior dues have stayed the same at \$2.00 annually. See the VNA Membership/Renewal Application on page 4 for details, along with the new Club, Family, and Lifetime Membership rates.

Associate Editor Red Henry

As I finish up this second issue for which I've been responsible, these two magazine deadlines have made me think with amazement of all the issues (well over 100) which Jim Ruehrmund produced! It's a big help now, to have several different authors submitting excellent articles for publication. Keep them coming! This issue's lead article is *Virginia's Cross Pistreen*, a thoroughly-researched and nicely-written article by Tom Kays. For those interested in early U.S. coins, you'll also find a homemade piece entitled *Which Comet Was It?*, concerning the 1807 "Comet Variety" cent, one of the instances in which science and numismatics converge.

The approach of the new millennium reminds me of money as it was a thousand years ago. Most European coinage in 1000 a.d. was of silver, and it was mostly minted in just one denomination, the denier or penny or equivalent. European countries and others were also making gold coins, the value of which was so high at the time that their circulation must have been limited. The Byzantines also coined bronze, as did a few other countries. In most parts of the world, paper money was unknown. Gold, silver, and bronze—that's what money was made of.

What a change we see today! None of those three metals is now present in circulating coinage. Within the last seventy years, our country has successively eliminated its gold, silver, and bronze coins. A base-metal "token" coinage now supplements our paper money, and precious-metal monetary standards have gone by the wayside. Historically speaking, all this happened in an extremely short time. It's difficult to imagine what changes America's money will undergo in the next hundred years, let alone in the next thousand!

There have been many questions from VNA members and dealers, inquiring about Jim Ruehrmund's recovery from his stroke. I spoke with Jim's wife Elsie recently, and she said that Jim is working hard in therapy and can get around the house with a walker, though progress is difficult. I know that all VNA members will send Jim their very best wishes during his recovery.

VNA members, your "Letters to the Editor" are welcome. Feel free to comment on current organizational and numismatic issues. We'll be glad to run your letter in the magazine if the space is available.

Coin show promoters, please send me your show dates as early as possible. Otherwise, my information may not be up-to-date or complete.

I hope that everyone had a busy and successful fall collecting season. With shows within driving distance at Vienna, Charlottesville, Fishersville, New Carrollton, and Baltimore, I was able to find new coins and meet many VNA members. I'll look forward to seeing you in this New Year!

Red Henry, P.O. Box 2498, Winchester, VA 22604 e-mail: <redhenry@visuallink.com> (No attachments, please.)

Letter to the Editor

I might as well comment on the convention. I did notice the lack of Virginia dealers (although there were some of the old standbys) and the lack of "southside" collectors. As a dealer, I have mixed emotions about keeping the convention in the same place each year; but the spring sponsorship, if it catches on, should alleviate some of the feeling of estrangement that some of the members feel.

I also have some doubt about the many dealers on the board, and that many of the newly elected board members did not show at the Board meeting. I also noticed that while the education portion of the convention seemed to go well, there was a lack in the "social aspect." The rag-pickers meeting, although scheduled, did not occur. (The location of the meeting wasn't even known by the hotel!!)

Personally, I think the best aspect of the convention was the YN program and Jim Belcher. The VNA would do well to keep him and his program around for as long as he wants to do it.

In any event, keep up the good work. And we'll see you around.

Len Harsel (by e-mail)

✓ VNA Memb	pership/Renewal Application 💢				
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Proposed New Constitution for the Virginia Numismatic Association

ARTICLE I: NAME

The organization shall be known as the Virginia Numismatic Association, Incorporated; hereafter referred to as VNA. It is incorporated under the laws of The Commonwealth of Virginia as a non-profit organization.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The object of this organization, dedicated to the highest standards of numismatics in Virginia, shall be to educate, encourage and promote interest in numismatics, to cultivate friendly relationships among clubs, collectors, students and dealers, and to provide assistance and cooperation to coin clubs.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Membership is open to any club or individual interested in numismatics.

SECTION 2. The membership of this organization shall be comprised of five groups: Club, Regular, Life, Family and Junior.

SECTION 3. A membership number shall be assigned to each new member club, regular member, life member, Family membership and junior member by the secretary. Reinstatements shall be treated as new members for the purpose of assignment of membership numbers unless all dues in arrears at the time reinstatement are paid in full.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS

SECTION 1. The elective officers of the Association shall be President and Vice President.

SECTION 2. Any member in good standing shall be eligible to run for an elective office. The office of Secretary, Treasurer, Bourse Chairman and Magazine Editor shall be appointed by the President and confirmed By the Board of Directors. Any member in good standing, including Officers and Directors, shall be eligible to serve in these offices.

SECTION 3. All elective officer positions are for a term of three years.

(Continued on next page.)

Proposed New VNA Constitution (Continued)

ARTICLE V: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 1. The Board of Directors shall consist of five elected individual members of the organization, in good standing.

SECTION 2. All elected officers of the organization shall be ex-officio members of the Board of Directors during their term of office and eligible to vote on all matters under consideration.

SECTION 3. The immediate Past President shall be a voting member of the board and shall serve as an advisor to the Board.

SECTION 4. The Board of Directors is empowered to enact by-laws for the Association. The Board shall ensure the by-laws remain current and approve changes by a majority vote.

ARTICLE VI: DUES

SECTION 1. The revenue of the organization shall be derived from; dues, assessments, contributions, auctions, coin shows, and such other methods as may be proper.

SECTION 2. The annual dues shall be determined by a vote of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 3. Applications for new membership or reinstatement shall be accompanied by the regular dues, and this shall pay dues in full to the following December 31st. Any new application accepted between September 1st and December 31st shall be paid in full through December 31st of the following year.

SECTION 4. Annual dues are payable in advance on January 1st of each year. Failure to pay dues within a four-month grace period shall automatically cancel membership. Each member in good standing as of December 31st, who owes dues for the forthcoming year, shall be mailed a notice of dues at the last known address in the files of the secretary, during the month of January.

ARTICLE VII: AWARDS

SECTION 1. Annual awards shall be The Past President's Plaque, Exhibit Awards, and when appropriate, the Outstanding Member Award.

SECTION 2. The above awards shall be presented, when appropriate at the annual convention.

(Continued on next page.)

Proposed New VNA Constitution (Continued)

ARTICLE VIII:

ANNUAL CONVENTION & SEMI ANNUAL COIN SHOWS

SECTION 1. An annual convention and coin show shall be held in the fall each year, in the months of September/October whenever possible, at a time and place to be selected and approved by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2. When financially feasible, based on local club support for running the event, a smaller spring coin show in the months of March, April or May shall be held in various locations throughout Virginia. Its primary purpose is promoting numismatics throughout the entire Commonwealth of Virginia. The Board of Directors shall approve the location of the show. Based on the financial condition of VNA, funds for advertising and promotion may be appropriated.

SECTION 3. All dealers, and their assistants, and competing exhibitors, must be members of VNA in good standing.

ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1. This constitution may be altered or amended.

SECTION 2. Any individual member in good standing may present an amendment, in writing, with the endorsement of five association members, to the secretary. Such proposal will be forwarded to the members of the Board of Directors. Upon their approval the proposed amendment shall be published in "The Virginia Numismatist" in the form of a ballot. The secretary will tabulate the ballots not later than thirty days after publication. A two-thirds majority of those members voting shall be necessary for adoption of the amendment.

SECTION 3. Any member of the Board of Directors may originate amendments when feasible for consideration by the membership in the same manner prescribed in SECTION 2 above.

All VNA Members
Please Complete and Mail
the Constitution Ballot
on Page 8!



VNA Constitution Ballot

(Please print your name.)
I,, a VNA member
in good standing, hereby
Approve □
Disapprove
the above proposed new constitution for the Virginia Numismatic Association.
(Signed)
Please mail to: Daryl Spelbring, Secretary Virginia Numismatic Association P.O. Box 633 Vienna, VA 22183-0633



1897 Half Eagle

VNA WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

The following persons, who have applied for membership in the Virginia Numismatic Association, will become members 20 days from the mailing of this notice, unless objections are received, in which case the matter will be acted upon by the Board of Directors.

Applicant	Sponsor
Junior Memberships:	
Ben Anderson, Richmond, VA	M. Capen
Patrick Barranger, Richmond, VA	M. Capen
Connor Barranger, Richmond, VA	M. Capen
Dylan Bishop, Richmond,	M. Capen
Travis Cramer, Midlothian,	M. Capen
Anna Ehredt, Richmond, VA	M. Capen
ina Garada, Richmond, VA	M. Capen
Chris J. Gresham, Midlothian, VA	M. Capen
Jared Harding, Richmond, VA	M. Capen
Philip Higginbotham, Richmond, VA	M. Capen
Joey Hinton, Richmond, VA	M. Capen
Drew Kaerwer, Richmond, VA	M. Capen
Stephanie Kazlauskas, Richmond, VA	M. Capen
Phillip Jackson, Richmond, VA	M. Capen
Camille Jackson, Richmond, VA	M. Capen
Chris Poegl, Richmond, VA	M. Capen
Jared Rowan, Richmond, VA	M. Capen
Heather Schmidt, Richmond, VA	M. Capen
John Schultz, Jr., Midlothian, VA	M. Capen
Cassie Sconzo, Richmond, VA	M. Capen
Anthony Sconzo, Richmond, VA	M. Capen
Jordan Shearin, Richmond, VA	M. Capen
Russell Snead, Richmond, VA	M. Capen
Charlie Steele, Richmond, VA	M. Capen
Eric Steely, Midlothian, VA	M. Capen
Joey Stemmle, Richmond, VA	M. Capen
Lauren Stewart, Richmond, VA	M. Capen
Shannon Stewart, Richmond, VA	M. Capen
Jessica Underwood, Richmond, VA	M. Capen
Michael Underwood, Richmond, VA	M. Capen
Collins Youngblood, Midlothian, VA	M. Capen
Club Membership:	
Smoketree Junior Coin Club	M. Capen
Regular Memberships:	The Spanish I
Linda Keeling, Stafford, VA	M. Capen
Somboon Buranaamorn, Vienna, VA	D. Spelbring
G.N. Wilson, Farmville, VA	D. Spelbring
Peter B. Hazell, Bethesda, MD	S. Ellsworth
John Youngerman, Whiteville, NC	B. Ciociola



VIRGINIA'S CROSS PISTAREEN - A TWO BIT COLONIAL OF DISTINCTION

By Tom Kays



R. S. Yeoman's *A Guide Book of United States Coins* pays homage to the Spanish Milled Dollar or "piece of eight" by picturing it first in the "Red Book". This coin was the forerunner of the US dollar. Also called the "Pillar Dollar", it featured both the old and new worlds framed between the Pillars of Hercules which were symbolic of the Straights of Gibraltar, Spain's gateway to the Americas. The Spanish Milled Dollar was first minted in Mexico City in the year of George Washington's birth, 1732. But before the Spanish Milled Dollar, another coin was king in colonial Virginia. Numismatists in Virginia should equally revere the "Cross Pistareen" or Silver Two Reales of Spain as the preeminent Virginia colonial coin. They have been found at early colonial house sites, turnpikes and taverns from Norfolk and Portsmouth, through Colonial Williamsburg and Yorktown, and up through Stafford, Fredericksburg, and on occasion into Prince William and Fairfax Counties.*

After barter and before banks, colonial Virginians liked their money hard. While Massachusetts had been first in "shin-plastering" their soft paper currency, backed only by good intention since the 1720s, the Virginia Colony was the last hard money holdout. Virginia resisted the use of inflation prone paper currency until 1755 when the pressures of the French and Indian War demanded deficit spending to raise and outfit the local militia in defense of King and Colony. Spanish Milled Dollars were not commonly available in colonial Virginia until after the French and Indian War. In addition the exchange rates between silver and copper coins fluctuated wildly and often flip-flopped not just between colonies but by city. A handsome profit could be made by the casual traveler who brought silver coin to Virginia and took away coppers to New England and the Carolinas. Georgian copper half pence and farthings were common in colonial America but became increasingly scarce in Virginia. For these reasons during the thirty years before the French and Indian War the most common "old plate" coin circulating in colonial Virginia was the Cross Pistareen.

The Spanish Crown had intended pistareens to circulate in mainland Spain. Pistareen legends include no mention of dominion over the "Indies" that all Spanish colonials from Central and South America proclaim. "Half Pistareens" worth one reale and "Quarter Pistareens" worth 1/2 reale were also issued. The basic "shield and cross" design of

the pistareen has been little changed since 1608. The obverse (shield side) displays a crowned coat-of-arms in a shield design with guartered castles and lions of Castile and León, vertical lines of Catalonia - Aragon, diagonals with eagles for Sicily, three (new) Bourbon Fleurs-de-lis for King Philip the Fifth, (PHILIPPUS V), in the center, the horizontal stripes of Austria, diagonal stripes of Burgundy, the lions of Brabant and Flanders, and the Eagle of the Tyrol, along with the name and ordinal of the reigning king and "D. G.", Latin shorthand for "Dei Gratia" or "By the Grace of God". Also the "R" for "Reales" appears over the mintmark to the left of the shield and the denomination appears over the certifying mint master's initials on the right. The reverse (cross side) sports a long, thin tessellated cross quartering two castles for Castile, Spain from two Lions symbolic of León along with the date and "HISPANIARVM REX" meaning "King of the Spains". "Spains" is plural just like we would talk about the "States". Both sides were further punctuated by distinctive, small or large, four-pointed stops, dots, or six-petal rose stops between words.

Pistareens were superior coins in their day compared to the usual dogs, counterfeits, clips, and cobs early Virginians had to spend. Minted on thin round flans as opposed to the irregularly shaped cobs, pistareens discouraged clipping. The design was fully and beautifully struck by using roller dies as opposed to rough and uneven hand hammered cobs that usually lost key elements of design. For this reason people today sometimes mistake pistareens for the exceedingly rare "Royal" strikes of the cobs. The full and detailed design discouraged "slinging", "whirling" and made it hard to cast or strike convincing counterfeits. The penalty of hanging by the neck until dead may have something to do with discouraging 'would be' pistareen counterfeiters too. Truly original pistareens are still curved from top to bottom and will show uneven top/bottom versus middle wear. Most were hammered straight early on for better stacking.

On the buying power of pistareens: "John Lovejoy was born in 1732 and is said to have been the second white male child born in Penacook, New Hampshire. John subscribed four dollars towards the first frame meeting-house at Concord, and worked it out in cutting timber, at a pistareen a day. He kept a tavern in the north-east part of Concord from 1780, which was very celebrated. One night thirty-three teams, or sixty-six oxen, put up there. He charged half a pistareen for keeping a yoke of oxen over night." - From the Hoyt family history an Internet posting, July 1999.

The value of pistareens in America fluctuated constantly. In Money of the American Colonies and Confederation, Dr. Philip Mossman notes that in 1759 a pistareen traded at a shilling, four pence in Philadelphia and for a shilling, 6 pence in New York. When the US Dollar

was invented pistareens were worth twenty US cents. Yet in the eyes of PHILLIPUS V, pistareens were 2 reales, the same denomination as the heavy weight, 2 reales of Central and South America that were worth four to either the Spanish Milled and US Dollars. Pistareens were deliberately made 20% underweight compared to the Spanish Colonial mints' two bits, yet traded even in payment on debts to the Spanish Government. This "King's fifth" was an import tax on New World metal reaching Spain. PHILLIPUS V issued most (about 90%) of all pistareens found in Virginia, especially between the years of 1717 to 1724, from mints in Seville ("S"), Segovia ("Aqueduct" mintmark) and less commonly from Madrid (Crowned "M"). Cuenca ("Ca") mint coins are rare in Virginia. Every pistareen present in colonial Virginia crossed the Atlantic under sail, at least twice. The first crossing was at the end of the days of the pirate, with the silver in the form of cobs or bars in a treasure ship sailing from New World to Old. Several years of silver production were lost when the 1715 Fleet floundered in a hurricane. Perhaps pistareen silver was mined in 1715 - 1716 and traveled to Spain in the next successful shipment. After rolling pistareens in quantity in Spain starting in 1717, a second crossing from Old World to New took place circa 1725. They probably first arrived in Norfolk, Virginia and rapidly disbursed through trade at docks and landings along the James River to Richmond and the Rappahanock River to Falmouth, by 1732. They were out on the Appalachian frontier before 1740.

Whether in fancy Tidewater taverns, or the Stafford Court House, and especially when flopped for the night at those rough crossroads ordinaries of the Virginia frontier our forefathers used the long thin cross design as a cutting aid when making "frontier change". They often cut pistareens into halves, called "bits" and into quarters, termed "fips", with shears, chisel, axe, knife or whatever was handy along the wayside. Hammering the coin out first gave some greedy cutters four thin quarters with as much as a third of the coin's weight left as a tip for the cutter's melting pot. Greedy quarter cuts generally show less than 5 1/2 letters of the outer legends. Back when a goodly tankard of ale cost "a fip and a bit", its not surprising that pistareens, cut into pie shaped 1/4 wedges, are the most common colonial coin found in Virginia's Pre-Revolutionary War tavern sites. Examples of pistareens crudely cut in half have been found with frantic and erratic knife scoring and finger bends between fips that were lost before separation, no doubt fumbled away before that goodly tankard of ale was completely paid for. Pity.

Less common are pistareens dated after 1724 with the exception of 1737, which is fairly common. Even more uncommon are pistareens dated before 1717 and those of King Ferdinand VI. Late dated pistareens of Carolus the Third "CAROLUS III" from the 1760s have been found at Haymarket, once a gateway to the frontier.

Production of cross pistareens was phased out altogether by 1771, replaced by debased "Head Pistareens" showing the large nosed profile of Carolus III in 1772. Overall, the pistareen's superior construction and lighter weight ensured a long circulation, free from the melting pot.

Whole, "two bit" Pistareens and Half Pistareens, "bits" (both round, 1 reale coins or cut halves of the two reales) are less common finds for Virginia, being found once for about every fifteen cut pistareen 1/4s, "fips". A rare fip (3 known found in Virginia), was issued by Luis the First, who was Philip V's son. LUIS I ruled for only a few months and died in 1724. Philip V had to come back out of retirement to rule until 1747. Another unusual fip (2 known), found around Yorktown, was issued by Carolus the Third, "The Pretender" who captured Barcelona and challenged Philip V's reign from 1707 to 1714.

While over a third of all colonial coins of every type found in Virginia have holes for suspension, the pistareens and half pistareens were rarely ever holed. Only the round, quarter cross pistareens have been found holed. Dug contemporary counterfeits are very scarce. A 1724 contemporary counterfeit pistareen made of silver plated base metal, meant to deceive, was found at Hopewell. Pistareens cut into thirds, for the French Colonial and Caribbean trade and also half fips (1/8 cut) are also quite scarce in Virginia. No pre-Philip V pistareens (before 1700) nor "old plate" 4 Reales nor 8 Reales (of the same design as pistareens) have been found in Virginia (opinion of the author).

Better coins were soon introduced and gained prevalence in the pockets and purses of early Virginians, like the world famous, Spanish Milled Dollar, popular in Virginia by 1760, and the Spanish Colonial Portrait coinage, popular by 1780 which circulated into the 1860s. Pistareen quickly lost favor and prestige in comparison to the pillar dollar and soon came to be disdained. The word "pistareen" is vaguely remembered as a diminutive term meaning "something of little consequence". By 1800 the Pistareen was nearly gone from Virginia They were devalued in 1827 to 17 cents and then commerce. demonetized in 1857. What few remained in old savings hoards were traded in for shiny new Flying Eagle pennies from the Philadelphia Mint. Retail prices today for common pistareens run from about \$20 in Fine to \$75 in AU grade. Retail prices for an unattributed, cut 1/4 piece run \$20 -\$25 at tourist shops in downtown Fredericksburg when they are available. The upper left quarter with the last two date digits usually runs slightly more. Hint: Always look for matching wear and even tone on the cut edges which should be present on old cuts.

(* Note: The author bases the information in this article on his ever expanding database of over a hundred documented examples of dug pistareens or their parts found in Virginia.)

Which Comet Was It?

Astronomy and the famous "Comet variety" large cent of 1807

Red Henry

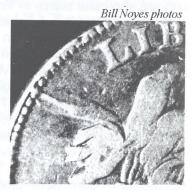
Many early large cent varieties have nicknames. The "Fallen 4," the "Office Boy Reverse," the "Hyphen variety," the "Q variety," and others are familiar to specialists, although beginners may take a while in learning to recognize them. However, one variety identifiable even to a novice is the well-known "Comet variety," the Sheldon-271 of 1807.

Most examples of this variety show a die break in the left obverse field. This takes the form of a raised area starting at Ms. Liberty's hair just above the ribbon knot, and extending to the left and upward as far as the rim denticles. Late-state examples show a distinct central ridge running through the left half of the break. Since the die break is nearly always present, and since it is frequently obvious even on a low-grade example, this 1807 variety is easily identified.

Contributing to the variety's popularity is its attractive nickname. Long ago, someone took a look at the die break and commented that it looked like a comet in



1807 S-271, the "Comet variety"



Close-up view of the "Comet" die break

the sky behind Ms. Liberty's head. We don't know who first made this observation, but the nickname was apparently well established by August 1913, when Part V of Charles E. McGirk's article series "United States Cents and Die Varieties, 1793-1857" appeared in *The Numismatist*. In his variety listing for the date 1807, Mr. McGirk mentioned the "comet variety," and no additional comment or explanation of the nickname was needed.

Just when did this nickname arise? I believe that it could have been over a century ago. People in the 1800s paid more attention to things in

the sky than they do now. This was partly because celestial objects showed up better before the "skyglow" of urban lights obscured the night sky, and partly because people spent more time outdoors and their eyes and minds had not yet been dazzled by computer and video images. These, and even the early movies which preceded them, gradually dulled people's perception and appreciation of more subtle, but more genuine and beautiful, sky phenomena.

Someone in the 1800s saw a particular comet, and named the die break with the comet in mind. But which comet was it? Since someone thought that the die break looked like a comet, we need to find a comet that looked like the die break. We need a large, eye-catching comet (called by astronomers a "great" comet) with a broad, well-defined tail, preferably with a central ray or bright line of some sort down the middle. If we can identify the comet and the time it appeared, that will also give us a clue to when the variety was named, because the memory of the comet's appearance was still fresh.

One of my favorite activities (aside from collecting early copper) lies in collecting books which deal with another enjoyable pastime, astronomy. A few hundred astronomy books have accumulated here in my library, mostly published between 1760 and 1920, during the era when astronomy was still primarily a visual experience. Before about 1890, illustrations in astronomy books were not printed from photographs, which can give misleading impressions of comets' sizes and shapes, but instead were drawn from their actual appearance to the naked eye, which is what matters in this case. An examination of astronomy books from the 1800s yielded illustrations of several comets and descriptions of many others.

One of the first interesting comets of the 19th century was Halley's comet, which appeared in 1835. This comet was more famous than spectacular, though, and it proved to be disappointingly small and faint. It does not seem to me that anyone would have named a coin after it.

In February and March of 1843, there appeared a comet so bright that for a time its nucleus was actually



Halley's comet in 1835 (From Peabody, 1869)

visible close to the sun in broad daylight. This celestial visitor is illustrated at right. I believe that although it was a large comet, it was too long and narrow an object to inspire the S-271's nickname.



Great Comet of 1843 (From Olmstead, 1861)

Biela's comet, a periodic comet with a orbit of 6½ years, was discovered and named in 1826. It was visible again in 1845-46, but on this appearance the comet had split into two fragments, one of which was larger than the other. Neither of the fragments looked much like the S-271 comet, and Biela's comet disappeared after 1852.



Biela's comet in 1845 (From Peabody, 1869)

The next spectacular comet was Donati's comet, which was brightest in October, 1858. This comet was not especially large, as "great" comets go, but it was quite bright and its tail was strongly curved. Several faint, straight "ion" tails (as astronomers call them now) were also visible. This comet did not seem to be what I was looking for.

A comet appeared in 1860, but it was not significant enough to garner much attention. Then a comet appeared in 1861, the fan-shaped tail of which is described as having six "perfectly straight" bright rays.



Donati's comet of 1858 (From Todd, 1899)

This also did not resemble the S-271 die break very much.

In 1874, however, there appeared another "great" comet. This was Coggia's comet, a very brilliant object with a tail 50° in length. Not only was this comet large and attractive, but during its approach to the sun, according to Todd's "New Astronomy," the comet's tail showed a



Coggia's Comet of 1874 (From Todd, 1899)



The die break, for comparison

"bright streak immediately following the nucleus and running the length of the tail." (Italics mine.) The visual appearance of Coggia's comet is shown above. What does this remind you of? I think that this comet resembles the S-271 die break as much as any comet could.

A large comet with a bright nucleus and a very slender tail appeared in 1882. Then Swift's comet, fairly small but bright with a ball-shaped head and a split tail, appeared in 1892. No more "great" comets followed until 1910, when a very large, bright comet in January was followed by a typically disappointing appearance of Comet Halley in May. By 1910, however, we are nearly down to the time of Mr. McGirk's article in *The Numismatist*, when the term "Comet variety" was already familiar to those who studied large cents.

Out of all these candidates from the early 1800s down to 1910, Coggia's comet seems by far the most likely to have inspired the S-271's nickname, judging both from the comet's visual aspect and from its date of apparition. Also, 1874 was just the right time for this comet to appear, as far as the study of 1807 large cents was concerned. While the cents of 1793 and 1794 had been the subjects of published works in the 1860s by S.S. Crosby and Dr. E.H. Maris, respectively, the later-date cents had to wait until the published works of Frossard and Proskey-Doughty in 1879-80. It was in that era that collectors and scholars seriously began examining and describing the later cents, and the resemblance of an 1874 comet to the S-271 die break must have caught the eye of some observant and imaginative person: "Why, that looks just like a comet in the sky behind Liberty's head!"

What do you think? If you find a better comet-candidate, let me know. In the meantime, let's consider that Coggia's comet of 1874 was the one which inspired the nickname of the 1807 Sheldon-271, the famous "Comet variety" large cent.

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Large cent photographs courtesy of Bill Noyes.

Red Henry began collecting coins in 1958. His articles have appeared in many numismatic periodicals, and he publishes The Early-Date Report, a national census of large cent collections.



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1855 "Slanting 5's" Large Cent

New Example of Rare Cent Variety Found

Early American coinage enthusiasts were pleased and surprised recently at the emergence of a new example of an extremely rare large cent. The 1796 variety was listed as unique by researcher William Sheldon in his 1949 book *Early American Cents*, because it was known by only a single specimen held by the American Numismatic Society in New York City. The variety was distinguished by its "stemless wreath" reverse die, and the ANS coin was the only cent of 1796 known with such a reverse. However, by 1958, when Sheldon published his book revision entitled *Penny Whimsy*, he had become suspicious of the coin and he cast doubt upon its authenticity, believing that the date probably had been altered from 1797.

The genuineness of the unique specimen remained unconfirmed until part (yes, part) of another specimen was located in 1995. A 1797 half cent was discovered, struck on a planchet punched out of a large cent which had been spoiled in striking. This was a common practice in the mint at the time. The surprise came when modern experts identified the still-visible planchet undertype as being of this "stemless" 1796 cent variety! Since the coin involved was of the half-cent denomination, many still considered the ANS cent unique.

Given this history for the variety, it was big news when the second known complete specimen was discovered recently by veteran Ohio dealer Rod Burress. The newly-discovered coin was seen by several collectors (including yours truly) and authenticated by experts at the November show in Baltimore. Although the coin is well worn, there is no doubt of its identification, and the "stemless wreath" reverse is clear. The new specimen, even in low grade, is superior in eye appeal to the rather unattractive ANS coin, and is clearly the more desirable of the two.

We understand that the new cent found its way a few days later into the holdings of a very advanced collector, who appreciates and values the coin quite highly. We can rest assured that this important item will be carefully preserved, and that, unlike coins locked up in museums, it will become available for other collectors to own and enjoy some day.

—Red Henry

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Name two famous kings of England, one "good" and one "bad," who never issued any *English* coins in their own names. (Hint: Think of Robin Hood.)

Answer next issue.

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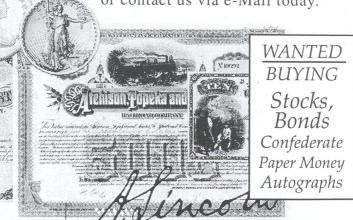
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VOLUME 36, No. 2 March-April, 2000

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President's Message

Col. Steven K. Ellsworth, VNA President

The 2nd Annual Spring show is well on its way to being a great event. Malcomb Gutterman and The Tidewater club have been working hard to insure its success. This year's two-day event will be held on April 15th & 16th, 2000 at the Pembroke Hall, 4815 Virginia Beach Blvd, in Virginia Beach, Virginia. In our efforts to spread the joys of collecting throughout the commonwealth, each year, with the co-sponsorship of a VNA member club, we plan to continue to have a smaller annual spring show, in locations that will support it. Last year the Charlottesville Club did an outstanding job of breaking the ice by hosting the first annual event. This year's event is shaping up to be another outstanding success. I would encourage collectors and dealers to spread the word and plan on attending. It will be a lot of fun with lectures, exhibits, a young numismatists (YN) program and a bourse to buy, sell and trade coins, collectibles and currency. For further information, call Guy Clark at (757) 622-3474 or Malcomb Gutterman (757) 627-1095.

Your board of directors is soliciting proposals from our member clubs for the 2001 Spring Show. The decision of a location will most likely be made at our next meeting, so please do not delay in letting us know if your club is

interesting in co-hosting the event.

The VNA continues to grow and thrive due to the great efforts of so many members. Many things are taking place that should keep and maintain the VNA as one of the premier numismatic organizations in the county. Mike Capen is doing a marvelous job in recruiting young members. This last month alone he recruited over 30 new kids to join the VNA. I would also like to report that our first national collector organization has joined VNA. The Early American Coppers Inc., the nationally renowned group of dedicated Colonial, Half Cent, Large Cent and Hard Times Token collectors has signed on as a member club. To the EAC and all our new members, WELCOME!

One final note; our constitution has been in the process of being re-written during the past four years. The old version was totally out-dated. After countless hours, the by-laws committee and the board were finely able to present the proposed version for a vote in the January issue. The overwhelming majority of the board strongly recommends you vote yes to

it. Please take a minute to send in your ballot. It is important.

Till the next issue, please feel free to call, write, email or fax me with any thoughts or ideas you may have to improve our club. In the meantime, spread the word, and our membership applications.

Steven Ellsworth, President, VNA P.O. Box 498, Clifton, Va. 20124-0498 (703) 802-0252: FAX (703) 802-0253 e-mail: <Butternut@gslink.com>

Editor's Corner

Associate Editor Red Henry

The biggest news in the collecting world today is the introduction of the new Sacajawea dollar. It looks as if the U.S. Mint got it right this time, releasing a new coin which is attractive and popular, and which the public will use. The mint put on a well-designed (and very expensive) promotional campaign for the new dollar, and the publicity produced a demand for the new coin far in excess of the mint's pre-release strikings.

Not only are the new dollars interesting and attractive coins, but they have made the news as well. Numerous national media articles have spotlighted the release of the misleadingly named "golden" dollars. Controversy surrounds the mint's initial deal with General Mills to insert dollars in cereal boxes, and a also special arrangement with the Wal-Mart retail chain to distrubute the dollars exclusively through their stores for the first several weeks. Public demand is drawing banks' attention to the new dollars, so presumably when regular distribution of the Sacajawea dollars begins, the banks will cooperate! The new dollars are trading at substantial premiums at coin shows.

Lynn Horn, of the Richmond Coin Club, sent a copy of an excellent Richmond Dispatch article highlighting the Smoketree Junior Stamp and Coin Club. The club is a large and active organization, with 51 members between the ages of 6 and 13, supported by the Richmond Coin Club and sponsors.

Lynn is quoted as saying, "This is a hobby that can bring the children something in the future...Boys and girls can work together in a non-competitive atmosphere." Lynn also commented, "One of the neat things about the club is that we have so much interaction between between the adult and junior club. It's a way to put senior citizens and children together." It sounds as if the folks in Richmond are doing a great job working with the younger generation!

The Walt Mason Award Committee has announced that nominations for the 2000 Walt L. Mason, Jr., Award are being accepted for consideration. All nominations should be sent to the committee by July 1, 2000.

The nominee need not be a member of the VNA, but must be numismatically active within the Middle Atlantic Area. Nominations should be in letter form, covering the specific award criteria. There are no restrictions as to persons who may submit a nomination.

The award, if presented, will be announced at the VNA annual convention in October. Information regarding the award criteria and the program is available from the Walt Mason Fund, P.O. Box 2301, Springfield, Va. 22152.

Red Henry, P.O. Box 2498, Winchester, Va. 22604 e-mail: <redhenry@visuallink.com>

VNA WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

The following persons, who have applied for membership in the Virginia Numismatic Association, will become members 20 days from the mailing of this notice, unless objections are received, in which case the matter will be acted upon by the Board of Directors.

Sponsor
D. Spelbring
D. Spelbring
G. Schmidt
D. Spelbring
Sponsor
S. Ellsworth

☆ VNA Membership/Renewal Application < ☆
Check one: □\$10.00/Individual □\$10.00/Club □\$15.00/Family □\$2.00/Junior (under 17) □\$150.00/Lifetime
(Please print.)
Name
Street or P.O. Box
City, State, Zip
Your address information is kept confidential.
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P.O. Box 633

c/o Daryl C. Spelbring, Secretary

Vienna, VA 22183-0633



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3





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The Eagle Gold Mining Company of Virginia By Dr. Keith E. Littlefield



Figure 1. Eagle Gold Mine Stock Certificate 1850

Joseph Martin's Gazetteer of Virginia (1835) singled out Spotsylvania County and environs around the Rappahannock River to contain gold bearing veins that were "extremely rich, and the purity is so extraordinary, the ore so near the surface. and the machinery necessary for its collection so cheap, that many individuals have engaged in the search" (Martin, 1835, 23-24). In fact The White Hall Gold Mining and Milling Company of Virginia, in Spotsylvania County, was the first operating gold mine in Virginia as early as 1806 and as late as 1889 (City of Fredericksburg, 1997, 45). Martin attributes the initial 'gold rush' to the White brothers who discovered gold on their Spotsylvania farm in 1829 with much of the mining activity becoming concentrated near the Wilderness Post Office. Local editorials continued to promote the need for capitalists to fund more extensive mining operations, given that a considerable amount of had simply been picked up - the White's had already been offered \$100 per acre for 50 acres of their farm land (Political Arena, 10 July 1829, 2/3). By September, the Virginia Gold Mining Company was busily mining on Marshall Johnson's farm in Spotsylvania County extracting an average of \$40 of gold per day and on a good day ten times that amount (Political Arena, 8 September 1829, 2/5; Political Arena, 22 September 1829, 2/5). Investment and speculation as a result of the Philadelphia and Baltimore

rivalry for contol of Virginia's hinterland was very high and the prospect of easy gold only whetted the appetites of wellheeled capitalist prior to the discovery of gold in California.

At the request of John W. Mitchell, The Eagle Gold Mining Company was incorporated by the State of Virginia, March 28, 1848 "for the purpose of mining for and working gold and other minerals in the counties of Spotsylvania, Stafford, Culpeper and Fauquier" (Acts of Assembly, 1848, 305). 10,000 shares were authorized at \$50 each for a capitalization of \$500,000 with the constraint that the company could own no more than 500 acres. The President was James G. Clark and the Secretary Joseph H. Trotter of Philadelphia.

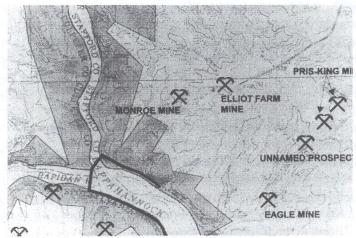


Figure 2. Eagle Gold Mine Location (Source: City of Fredericksburg, Virginia, Historic Resources Along the Rappahannock and Rapidan Rivers, 1997, 51).

The Eagle Gold Mine was located in Stafford County just south of the confluence of the Radian River on the north side of the Rappahannock River. The Eagle mine was a shaft mine and they operated their own stamping mill due to the presence of high quality ore (Eby, 1977, 302-304). This stamping mill undoubtedly referred to machinery, similar to that introduced by Commodore Stockton in Fluvanna County in 1850 "for reducing, on a large scale, the quartz rock, and demonstrating that a profitable business could be done" in this manner in Virginia (De Bow, 1853, vol. 3, 461-462). In addition to the

Stockton mine in Fluvanna, De Bow identified a number of additional mines in Buckingham County also doing well, but specific mining operations in the Fredericksburg vicinity were not cited. The 1850 Statistics of Manufactures shows Virginia having 5 gold mining operations with a capital of \$130,150, employing 139 hands and producing \$65,500 - an anemic third place behind North Carolina's production (\$392,723) and less than 1% of the dominate production of California (\$9,008,144) which had also caused an exodus of experienced miners in 1849 (Kennedy, 1850, 57).

Paul Hoyer, a German who was naturalized in Philadelphia in 1856, came to Virginia in 1860 at the age of 32 to work for the Eagle Gold Mining Company. In this capacity he panned for gold in the placer deposits and gave a percentage of the proceeds to the company and, according to Mr. Hover's sworn testimony to the Southern Claims Commission, the company was soon bankrupt. Mr. Hoyer made the decision to get married and he opened a small country store near the mines which he conducted in conjunction with leasing a small farm. Although he was a Union sympathizer, he was conscripted into the 47th Virginia Infantry of the C.S.A. in April of 1862 and after being wounded at Seven Pines in May of 1863, he returned to his farm to convalesce (Musselman, 1991, 131). He remained home that throughout the fall, effectively deserting by December 1863 when he was listed as AWOL. He was captured again and sent to Richmond and put in Castle Thunder for a few days before being forced to join the 30th Virginia Infantry which he promptly deserted to return home. He was captured a third time and escaped by getting his captors drunk on apple brandy, leaving his wife and children behind on the farm, he made his way to Alexandria where he remained until after the war.

Paul Hoyer returned home to Stafford County and with his remaining gold, he purchased a small store for \$500-\$600. Given his well known Union sympathies though, the local "people done everything they could do to annoy me & persecute me. They shot my stock & done everything they could, so that I saw there was no use to stay any longer there" (Southern Claims Commission Files, Approved Claims, Stafford County, Box 399). He then sought work in Fredericksburg and found employment working as a manager

for some fellow Germans who owned the Myers & Brulle flour mill. In 1877 his claim for losses for goods confiscated by the Union army for \$2,371.70 in livestock, crops and fencing was allowed for \$1,384.45 (58%). His testimony indicates that the contents of his store were also pillaged but was not claimed since it was not confiscated for official use. By March of 1877 he was operating a wall paper store in Fredericksburg under the style Nossett & Hoyer, and by January of 1879 he was in business for himself.

In 1869 Marye, Fitzhugh and English, in their real estate catalog of the Fredericksburg area, declared that the "gold-bearing localities in Virginia ... [were] equal to those of California" and they indicated that there were at least seven gold mines within 15 miles of Fredericksburg in operation (Marye et. al., 1869, 48-49). These rosy prognostications being advertised by local boosters were tempered by a more realistic assessment in 1878. Matthew Fontaine Muary's Physical Survey of Virginia indicated that Virginia's mineral resources were the richest of any state east of the Rocky Mountains, although "the mining operations here have, with a few exceptions, been confined to what may be called mere scratching into the sides of the mountains or into the bowels of the hills" (Maury, 1878, 130). Although local mining efforts persisted through the 19th-century with limited return on investment, production never eclisped antebellum levels.

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CONDITIONS OF TWENTY VIRGINIA BANKS 1854-1855

By J. Tracy Walker, III

A recent internet auction purchase, a leather bound publication by the state of Virginia, includes: DOC. No. XV - BANK STATEMENTS, DOC. No. XVI - REPORT OF THE RECTOR AND VISITORS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, JULY 1, 1854 and other Virginia organization reports. DOC. No. XV - BANK STATEMENTS (920 pages) provides a very detailed report of the financial condition of various banks authorized to operate in Virginia. This purchase provided the incentive and information for this brief summery. I suspect that this and similar reports for other time periods are available for research in the state library. Note that some "half notes" in circulation are included in the bank reports. Be advised that some of the tables provide dollar amounts (xxx,xxx.00), while others provide number of notes (xxxxx). The ".00" and lack of a comma will help you determine which is which. The following tables are summaries for each bank as a whole. The publication provides a great deal more information, e.g., of the 13609 fifteen dollar Exchange Bank notes in circulation, 400 of these were in circulation at the Salem Branch. It is interesting to note the decline of notes in circulation for most banks across the state from 1854 to 1855.

Bank Of Virginia (and Branches) - Samuel Marx, Cashier

\$	1st Qtr 1854	2 nd Qtr 1854	3 rd Qtr 1854	4 th Qtr 1854	1 st Qtr 1855
1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1
2	10,524.00	10,524.00	10,485.00	10,480.00	10,449.00
5	317,652.50	291,282.50	269,852.50	247,347.50	265,992.50
10	629,370.00	538,160.00	537,370.00	426,120.00	470,405.00
15	13,410.00	10,305.00	10,200	14,355.00	10,035.00
20	719,790.00	603,930.00	609,510.00	461,680.00	526,570.00
50	246,100.00	196,850.00	218,200.00	169,600.00	187,600.00
100	339,500.00	267,300.00	267,900.00	210,650.00	208,000.00
Post Notes	4,649.83	4,649.83	4,649.83	4,649.83	4,649.83
In Circ.	2,158,110.33	1,825,296.33	1,858,808.33	1,674,246.33	1,655,073.33
On Hand	122,886.00	97,705	69,369.00	49,396.00	28,628.00
Total	2,280,996.33	1,923,001.23	1,928,177.33	1,723,642.33	1,683,701.33

NOTES: 1/ Ones and Twos combined.

FARMERS BANK OF VIRGINIA - J. Adams Smith, Cashier

\$	1st Qtr 1854	2 nd Qtr 1854	3 rd Qtr 1854	4 th Qtr 1854	1st Qtr 1855
1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1
2	19,480.00	19,441.00	19,441.00	19,427.00	19,400.00
5	179,692.50	154,297.50	153,047.50	142,122.50	147,447.50
6	*2	*2	*2	*2	*2
7	*2	*2	*2	*2	*2
8	*2	*2	*2	*2	*2
9	86,975.00	82,549.00	80,975.00	57,729.00	64,813.00
10	361,.070.00	308,250.00	321,940.00	256,770.00	309,160.00
20	683,820.00	556,840.00	542,490.00	467,040.00	444,080.00
30	94,650.00	68,940.00	67,050.00	56,260.00	57,610.00
50	759,375.00	575,275.00	555,625.00	391,505.00	362,025.00
100	568,300.00	379,600.00	361,900.00	375,300.00	250,900.00
In Circ.	2,580,960.50	1,996,629.50	1,989,225.50	1,739,956.50	1,546,148.50
On Hand	172,402.00	148,563.00	113,243.00	73,267.00	109,287.00
Total	2, 753,362.50	2,145,192.50	2,102,468.50	1,813,223.50	1,655,435.50

NOTES: 1/ Ones and Twos combined.

2/ Six, Seven, Eight and Nines combined.

Totals do not include \$4,507.00 late Bank of Potomac in circulation.

Exchange Bank Of Virginia - W. Southgate, Cashier

1st Qtr 1855	4 th Qtr 1854	3 rd Qtr 1854	2 nd Qtr 1854	1st Qtr 1854	\$
884	886	894	906	910	1
270	273	275	279	284	2
30058 1/2	29877 1/2	33742 1/2	34448 1/2	40324 1/2	5
1239	1268	1067	830	639	6
1236	1244	1107	838	662	7
1269	1240	1081	832	614	8
1253	1225	1037	830	645	9
24276 1/2	23848 1/2	26839 1/2	25738 1/2	30730 1/2	10
12878	13057	14019	13609	15,878	15
16003 1/2	15689 1/2	18441 1/2	17674 1/2	21702 1/2	20
6869	6723	7843	7937	9182	50
1608	1715	2618	2483	3686	100
1,449,486.50	1,443,860.50	1,703,748.50	1,658,838.50	2,029,510.50	\$ In Circ.
		2207.00	2,217.00	2,267.00	*1
		1,705,955.50	1,661,055.50	2,031,777.50	\$ Total

NOTES: 1/ Of the late Farmers Bank of Alexandria in circulation.

Bank of The Valley in Virginia - H. M. Brent, Cashier

\$	1st Qtr 1854	2 nd Qtr 1854	3 rd Qtr 1854	4 th Qtr 1854	1st Qtr 1855
\$ In Circ.	2,181,713.50	1,609,965.50	1,799,841.50	1,626,794.50	1,720,627.50

NOTES: No detailed information (by denomination) provided.

Northwestern Bank of Virginia - D. Lamb, Cashier

		- g	, cubiner		
\$	1st Qtr 1854	2 nd Qtr 1854	3 rd Qtr 1854	4 th Qtr 1854	1st Qtr 1855
1	849.00	847.00		844.00	844.00
2	316.00	316.00		312.00	312.00
5	900,264.50	764,994.50		458,625.00	448,415.00
10	345,825.00	263,255.00		264,205.00	352,655.00
20	178,780.00	122,960.00		92,080.00	130,880.00
50	61,650.00	51,300.00		44,200.00	43,650.00
\$ In Circ.	1,487,684.50	1,203,672.50		860,266.00	976,766.00

NOTES: No detailed information for 3rd Qtr 1854.

Merchants and Mechanics Bank of Wheeling - J. W. Gill, President

\$	1st Qtr 1854	2 nd Qtr 1854	3 rd Qtr 1854	4 th Qtr 1854	1 st Qtr 1855
\$ In Circ.				1,059,590.00	

NOTES: No other information provided.

Bank of Kanawha - P. B. L. Smith, Cashier; C. Hedrick, Cashier

\$	1st Qtr 1854	2 nd Qtr 1854	3 rd Qtr 1854	4 th Qtr 1854	1 st Qtr 1855
5			40,000.00	40,005.00	40,005.00
10			51,990.00	59,990.00	59,990.00
20			103.980.00	119,980.00	119,980.00
Issue			195,970.00	219,975.00	219,975.00
1*				104,225.00	82,320.00
\$ In Circ.				115,750.00	137,655.00

NOTES: 1/ Less notes redeamed.

Bank of Scottsville - Wm D. Davis, Cashier

\$	1st Qtr 1854	2 nd Qtr 1854	3 rd Qtr 1854	4 th Qtr 1854	1st Qtr 1855
5	1,4000,48	Se 11 4 00,00		9,280.00	10,760.00
6	_ 110 000	10 1000		11,136.00	12,912.00
7		1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1		12,992.00	15,064.00
9			1830	16,704.00	19,368.00
Issue	10.77	7/2/1		50,112.00	58,104.00
On hand	4	1 1 1	ner kalenar m	1,004.00	258.00
\$ In Circ.			· minary)	49,108.00	57,846.00

NOTES: No other information provided.

Monticello Bank - Alex. Pope Abell, Cashier

\$	1st Qtr 1854	2 nd Qtr 1854	3 rd Qtr 1854	4 th Qtr 1854	1 st Qtr 1855
5	55,870.00	49,260.00	98,640.00	107	Total Tital
10	55,360.00	48,760.00	48,770.00		1.78.3
20	111,660.00	90,600.00	42,050.00	er to re to a solid	OTES telese
\$ In Circ.	222,890.00	188,620.00	189,460.00	185,455.00	196,695.00

NOTES: I suspect the amounts reported for the fives and twenties for the 3rd Qtr 1854 have been transposed. No individual figures were provided for the last two quarters.

Bank of The Old Dominion - Jas. McKenzie, Cashier

\$	1st Qtr 1854	2 nd Qtr 1854	3 rd Qtr 1854	4 th Qtr 1854	1st Qtr 1855
5	149,180.00	108,610.00	103,890.00	66,185.00	
10	52,370.00	31,460.00	46,330.00	40,020.00	
20	60,430.00	32,720.00	32,240.00	21,980.00	
50	35,650.00	13,700.00	15,950.00	8,350.00	
\$ In Circ.	297,630.00	186,490.00	198,410.00	136,535.00	155,415.00

NOTES: No individual figures were provided for the last quarter.

Manufacturers & Farmers Bank of Wheeling - J.R. Dickey, Cashier

\$	1st Qtr 1854	2 nd Qtr 1854	3 rd Qtr 1854	4 th Qtr 1854	1st Qtr 1855
5	290,800.00	230,935.00	207,000.00		110,000.00
10	the grade who is			- 1	40,000.00
*1	3,810.00		1 - 1		35,000.00
\$ In Circ.	286,990.00	230,935.00	207,000.00	101,000.00	115,000.00

NOTES: 1/ Less defaced notes on hand.

2/ \$35,000.00 on hand last quarter was all five dollar denomination notes.

Bank of Wheeling - D. C. List, Cashier

\$	1st Qtr 1854	2 nd Qtr 1854	3 rd Qtr 1854	4 th Qtr 1854	1 st Qtr 1855
5	100,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00	95,000.00	75,000.00
10					44,000.00
*1		6,635.00	6,405.00	31,025.00	6,215.00
\$ In Circ.	100,000.00	93,265.00	93,595.00	63,975.00	112,785.00

NOTES: 1/ Less notes on hand.

2/ Of the \$6,215 on hand notes last quarter, there were \$5,975.00 in fives and

\$240.00 in tens.

Merchants Bank of Virginia - Ro. C. Mitchell, Cashier

\$	1st Qtr 1854	2 nd Qtr 1854	3 rd Qtr 1854	4 th Qtr 1854	1st Qtr 1855
5	35,990.00	36,990.00	38,740.00	44,490.00	44,490.00
6	8,400.00	8,400.00	9,000.00	9,000.00	9,000.00
7	9,800.00	9,800.00	10,500.00	10,500.00	10,500.00
8	11,200.00	11,200.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00
9	12,600.00	12,600.00	13,500.00	13,500.00	13,500.00
10	71,980.00	73,980.00	77,480.00	88,980.00	88,980.00
20	8,000.00	88,000.00	94,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00
50	2,000.00	20.000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
100	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00
\$ In Circ.	289,970.00	300,970.00	315,220.00	338,470.00	338,470.00
On hand	69,906.00	25,072.00	30,500.00	45,032.00	60,893.00
\$ Total	220,064.00	275,898.00	284,720.00	293,438.00	277,577.00

NOTES: 1/ Printing mistake for the twenties and fifties 1st Qtr 1854: should have been reported as \$80,000.00 instead of \$8,000.00 and \$20,000.00 instead of \$2,000.00.

Bank of Berkeley - D. Burkhart, Cashier

\$	1 st Qtr 1854	2 nd Qtr 1854	3 rd Qtr 1854	4 th Qtr 1854	1 st Qtr 1855
\$ In Circ.	61,105.00	68,175.00	68,260.00	60,080.00	64,700.00

NOTES: No other information provided.

Bank of Rockingham - C. C. Strayer, Cashier

\$	1st Qtr 1854	2 nd Qtr 1854	3 rd Qtr 1854	4 th Qtr 1854	1st Qtr 1855
5	46,925.00	116061 8011	e 100 d'anni anni	e on Armond	138,897.50
10	45,970.00	- Person (To Trofessia	To North	43,400.00
20	89,380.00	r II Pontice	1-201-1-20	varia).	39,700.00
50	38,350.00		Tolken e		35,000.00
Ttl	220,625.00	257,880.00	222,700.00	261,350.00	261,997.50
On hand	a 1000	x 1000	7	18,780.00	
\$ In Circ.	220,625.00	257,880.00	222,700.00	242,570.00	261,997.50

NOTES: No other information provided.

Central Bank of Virginia - Wm. H. Tams, Cashier

\$	1st Qtr 1854	2 nd Qtr 1854	3 rd Qtr 1854	4 th Qtr 1854	1 st Qtr 1855
5	138,897.50		5 Qu 1051	4 Qu 1034	1 Qu 1833
10	43,400.00				
20	39,700.00				-
50	35,000.00	Lead Of Parallel	A 1,17 (15)	20	
\$ In Circ.	261,997.50	265,992,50	268,422.50	268,360.00	

NOTES: No other information provided.

Bank of Commerce - J. M. Herndon, Cashier

\$	1st Qtr 1854	2 nd Qtr 1854	3 rd Qtr 1854	4 th Qtr 1854	1st Qtr 1855
5		30,000.00	33,000.00	37,500.00	E / B
10	- 10	30,000.00	33,000.00	37,500.00	6 01
20		60,000.00	66,000.00	75,000.00	20 70
Ttl		120,000.00	132,000.00	150,000.00	150,000.00
On hand		36,100.00	15,130.00	69,470.00	65,085.00
\$ In Circ.		83,900.00	116,870.00	80,260.00	84,915.00

NOTES: 1/ No information provided for 1st Qtr 1854.

2/ \$15,130.00 On hand for 3^{rd} Qtr 1854 included \$1,150.00 in fives, \$2,360.00 in tens, and \$11,220.00 in twenties.

3/ \$69,470.00 On hand for 4th Qtr 1854 included \$11,740.00 in fives, \$13,380.00 in tens, and \$44,620.00 in twenties.

Fairmont Bank - G. H. Sprigg, Cashier

\$	1st Qtr 1854	2 nd Qtr 1854	3 rd Qtr 1854	4 th Qtr 1854	1st Qtr 1855
5	24,000.00		1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	A Cored A	YUJL.
10	36,000.00	7 7 7 7			
20				197	
\$ In Circ.	60,000.00	i i i i je tak ilju	60,000.00	A sogGrants	46,935

NOTES: 1/ No other information provided.

Bank of Winchester - Rob. B. Wolfe, Cashier

\$	1 st Qtr 1854	2 nd Qtr 1854	3 rd Qtr 1854	4 th Qtr 1854	1 st Qtr 1855
\$ In Circ.	99,935.00		99,935.00	52,500.00	

NOTES: No other information provided.

Trans-Alleghany Bank - Th. H. Gillespie, Cashier

		Till Til Officspie,	Cusifici		
\$	1st Qtr 1854	2 nd Qtr 1854	3 rd Qtr 1854	4 th Qtr 1854	1st Qtr 1855
5	38,000.00	[00.000	2 (H) (H)()		
10	38,000.00	187 (800).	11 (19)(1		
20	76,000.00	(I - 19 19 11 1	1		
50	24,300.00	21	100 = 11		
100	48,700.00	0 000	fwe free		
\$ In Circ.	225,000.00	235,000.00	400,000.00		

NOTES: No other information provided.

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BLUE RIDGE COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:30 pm on last Tuesdays at the Robert Smith Studio, upstairs, at 105 North 1st St., Charlottesville, Va. For information write to BRCC, 1561 Dairy Road., Charlottesville, VA 22903.

EARLY AMERICAN COPPERS. Regional meetings held at many major coin shows. Annual convention scheduled for Spring of 2001 in Fredericksburg, Va. Information: Rod Burress, 9743 Leacrest, Cincinnati, OH 45215.

MONTICELLO COIN CLUB. Meets on 2nd Thursdays at the Old Country Buffet on Rt. 29 N. in Charlottesville, Va. For info contact Sec.-Treas. Jim Luck, 301 E. Market St., Charlottesville, VA 22902, ph. (804) 295-1765.

PIEDMONT COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 3rd Tuesdays at the Volunteer Fire Dept., Collinsville, Va. For information write to Piedmont Coin Club, P.O. Box 418, Collinsville, VA 24078.

RAPPAHANNOCK AREA COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 3rd Tuesdays in the cafe of Borders Books & Music, Central Park, Fredericksburg, Va. For information contact Harry Frank, 5923 Cascade Dr., Fredericksburg, VA 22407.

RICHMOND COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:30 pm on 1st Tuesdays at the First Union Bank Bldg., 7 N. 8th St., Richmond, Va. For information contact Lynn Horn, President, 401 Smoketree Cir., Richmond VA 23236, 804-378-0806.

SALEM COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 2nd Mondays at the Roanoke Main Library, 706 S. Jefferson St., Roanoke, Va. For information contact Emmett Yonce, 2040 Roanoke Rd., Daleville, VA 24083.

SHENANDOAH VALLEY COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:30 pm on 2nd Mondays at the Mary Switzer Bldg., Woodrow Wilson Rehab. Ctr., Fishersville, Va. For information contact Linwood Wilkes, RR 6, Box 570-A, Staunton, VA 24401.

SMOKETREE JUNIOR STAMP & COIN CLUB. Information: Lynn Horn, 401 Smoketree Cir., Richmond VA 23236,

Swhorn@email.msn.com>

TIDEWATER COIN CLUB. Meets on 2nd Wednesdays at the VFW Hall, 4809 Bartee St., next to Toys-R-Us at Military Circle, Norfolk, Va. For information contact Malcolm Gutterman, P.O. Box 1145, Norfolk, VA 23501.

VIRGINIA PENINSULA COIN CLUB. Meets on 3rd Mondays at 7:30 pm at Sammy and Nick's Steak House, 2718 W. Mercury Blvd., in Hampton. For information write to VPCC, 140 Wellesley Dr., Newport News, VA 23606.

WARRENTON STAMP & COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 2nd Wednesdays at Warrenton Professional Center, 493 Blackwell Rd., Warrenton, Va. For information contact Toni Tripi at (540) 347-9212.

WASHINGTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY. Meets on 3rd Tuesdays at the Washington Congregational Church, 3526 Mass. Av. NW, Washington, D.C. For information write to Len Harsel, Box 2301, Springfield, VA 22152.

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SHOW CALENDAR 2000

Mar. 23-26, Baltimore, Md. Suburban Baltimore / Washington Coin Show **Baltimore Convention Center** Mar. 25-26, Winston-Salem, NC Winston-Salem Coin Club Annual Show Winston-Salem Elks Lodge, 3340 Silas Creek Pkwy Azalea Festival Coin Show Show Apr. 7-9, Wilmington, NC Elks Lodge (BPOE 532), 5102 Oleander Drive Salem Coin Club Show Apr. 8-9, Salem, Va. American Legion Bldg., 710 Apperson Dr. Apr. 15-16, Virginia Beach, Va. **VNA / Tidewater Coin Club Spring Show** Pembroke Hall, 4815 Virginia Beach Blvd. Vienna Quarterly Stamp & Coin Show Apr. 29-30, Vienna, Va. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., off Park St. Wake Forest Coins Collectors' Showcase May 19-21, Raleigh, NC. State Fairgrounds-Kerr Scott Building Atlantic Rarities Coin Exposition May 26-28, Baltimore, Md.

Show promoters, please send in your show dates and corrections! This information needs to be as up-to-date and complete as possible.

Baltimore Convention Center

Collectors, we recommend that you check with show promoters about schedule changes or cancellations before driving long distances.

Answer to Last Month's Numismatic Trivia

Question: Name two famous kings of England, one "good" and one "bad," who never issued any *English* coins in their own names. (Hint: Think of Robin Hood.)

Answer: These two famous kings were the mis-named "good" King Richard I (1189-1199) and his brother "bad" King John (1199-1216), both of whom issued their English coins only in the name of their father, King Henry II. However, some coins in their own names were issued overseas, in their French and Irish possessions.



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WANTED: Contemporary (to the Civil War) counterfeit Confederate notes for my personal collection. Please describe and price.

Ned Lea, 8704 Kings Mill Place, Raleigh, NC 27615

FOR SALE: 1999 VNA Convention wooden nickels; 50¢ ea. + SASE. VNA c/o Ginnie Aldridge, 515 Pinehurst Ave., Colonial Heights, VA 23834

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION WANTED on signers of Va. colonial, other colonial, and Continental currency. Will pay for referenced information I don't have. David Consolvo, P.O. Box 153, Covesville, VA 22931, (804) 293-4371

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WANTED: United Daughters of the Confederacy medals awarded to military veterans. These bronze crosses cover the Civil War through Desert Storm. Charles Pfeiffer, 1401 Druid Rd., Maitland, FL 32751, (407) 644-0085

WANTED: Wooden nickels with buffalo facing right. Describe and price. Ginnie Aldridge, 515 Pinehurst Ave., Colonial Heights, VA 23834

WANTED: ELKS-Both BPOE & IBPOEW tokens. Price & describe in 1st letter. J.M. Boswell, P.O. Box 428, Gambrills, MD 21054-0428

WANTED: All foreign paper money, scrip & notgeld + US MPC & CSA notes. Daryl C. Spelbring, P.O. Box 633, Vienna, VA 22183, (703) 938-7267

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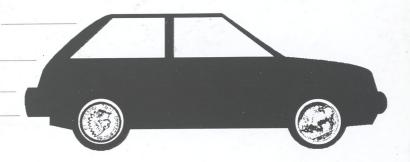


THE YIRGINIA NUMISMATIST

MAY - JUNE, 2000

Inside-

Traveling with Coins in a Vehicle



-Col. Steven Ellsworth

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The deadline for all copy is the first of the month preceding month of issue (e.g., April 1st for May 10th issue.)

THE YIRGINIA NUMISMATIST

VOLUME 36, No. 3 May - June, 2000

The VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST, the official publication of the Virginia Numismatic Association, is published six times per year. Articles and items for publication are welcomed. It is mailed from Hampton, Virginia, at the 3rd Class Rate and cannot be forwarded, so be sure to send your change of address.

Send mail relating to the magazine to Red Henry, P.O. Box 2498, Winchester, VA 22604.

Send correspondence about membership, address changes, etc., to Daryl Spelbring, P.O. Box 633, Vienna, VA 22183.

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President's Message

Col. Steven K. Ellsworth, VNA President

The 2nd Annual Spring show in Virginia Beach was a huge success. There were 44 tables manned by dealers from NY to Alabama, as well as dealers from the Mid-Atlantic. What a great event! Malcomb Gutterman and The Tidewater Coin Club are to be commended for making it all happen.

Each year our spring show continues to improve. In our efforts to spread the joys of collecting throughout the Commonwealth, each year, with the cosponsorship of a VNA member club, we plan to continue to have a smaller annual spring show, in locations that will support it.

In the last issue the board of directors solicited proposals from our member clubs for the 2001 Spring Show. We have already had one club request for 2001. The decision of a location will most likely be made at our next meeting, so please do not delay in letting us know if your club is interesting in co-hosting the event.

We are now making final arrangements for our Fall Convention, the Virginia Numismatic Association's

42nd ANNUAL COIN, STAMP & COLLECTIBLE SHOW & CONVENTION September 8-9-10, 2000

Please note that the dates have been changed from the ones previously listed. This will be the third year the annual event will be held in the R.J. Earnst Community Center, at the Annandale campus of the Northern Virginia Community College. Dealer setup is planned for 10 am on Friday, with early bird passes sold for \$50 for VNA members. Life members receive Early Bird access for life at all VNA sponsored events. The show will open to the public at 3 pm on Friday, 10-6 pm on Saturday, and 10-4 pm on Sunday. This year's show and convention is shaping up to be the best yet. Mark your calendars early and plan on attending. If you need bourse information, please contact me.

Till the next issue, please feel free to call, write, email or fax me with any thoughts or ideas you may have to improve our club. In the meantime, spread the word, and our membership applications.

Steven Ellsworth, President, VNA P.O. Box 498, Clifton, Va. 20124-0498 (703) 802-0252: FAX (703) 802-0253 e-mail: <Butternut@gslink.com>

Editor's Corner

Associate Editor Red Henry

The new Sacagawea dollars continue to attract attention. This month, for the first time, I have seen a few of them in circulation, mainly because I placed them there myself! The local bank now has some of the new dollars available each time I come in, and they are really handy for tips and road tolls.

Please renew your VNA membership on time! Many members have been dropped from this mailing for not paying their 2000 dues. A membership/renewal form is on page 5. If you know any VNA members who haven't paid their dues for this year, please encourage them to do so soon.

Ginnie Aldridge reports that sales are slow this year on the VNA woods. Check out her ad on page 24, and order yourself some these interesting and collectible items.

Lynn Horn sent in a newsletter and articles about how the Richmond Coin Club plans to expand its operations into Chesterfield County, for both the adult club and the Smoketree Junior Coin & Stamp Club. The junior club has grown from 10 to 51 members in the last year!

Letters to the Editor are invited. We will publish them if space is available.

Red Henry, P.O. Box 2498, Winchester, Va. 22604 e-mail: <redhenry@visuallink.com>

Letter to the Editor

Here are some thoughts on the Tidewater/VNA Spring show. I really haven't discussed this with too many other dealers, so this is basically my opinion.

I would hope that other local clubs would follow the Tidewater club in asking the VNA to assist in advertising and co-sponsoring their event. The show was well run and very pleasant. I don't know how many dealers attended or guests. You will have to check that with the Tidewater group (they're having a board meeting tonite).

As a VNA member I was happy to see many of the dealer-board members attending. And, there were customers who came all the way from Prince George's County MD!!! So, the advertising support paid off a bit, anyway.

As a dealer, I was pleasantly surprised by both the amount of business that I was able to do and in the traffic. There seemed to be a ready flow of people, even on Saturday when it rained buckets! Sunday was too nice, but we did have some traffic, altho light. The show was next door to a "flea market" which may have helped bring in some people, but I have no way of knowing.

The only short coming, that I could see, was that there was no YN activity altho there were lots of young folks with their parents and without. Perhaps this is too much to ask of a small club but it should be considered.

-Len Harsel

VNA WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

The following persons, who have applied for membership in the Virginia Numismatic Association, will become members 20 days from the mailing of this notice, unless objections are received, in which case the matter will be acted upon by the Board of Directors.

Applicant	Sponsor
Richard N. Blais, Fredericksburg, Va.	S. Ellsworth
Michael P. Carter, Covington, Va.	S. Ellsworth
John G. Costello, Springfield, Va.	D. Spelbring
John A. Feigenbaum, Virginia Beach, Va.	D. Spelbring
Kenneth E. Keenan, Chesapeake, Va.	J. Leite
Irwin Melson, Ruther Glen, Va.	S. Ellsworth
David C. Roberts, Colonial Heights, Va.	G. Schmidt
J. Jack Robinson, Virginia Beach, Va.	D. Spelbring
Immanuel B. Bibbins, Chesapeake, Va. (Junior member)	S. Ellsworth
New Life Member Applicant	Sponsor
Gary McNorton, Mobile, Ala.	S. Ellsworth
New Member Club	Sponsor
Early American Coppers, Inc.	S. Ellsworth
Converting to Life Membership	
Blue Ridge Coin Club, Charlottesville, Va.	

Note from the VNA Treasurer: About 92 members had not paid their 2000 dues as of April 25th. They will be dropped from the membership list at the end of April.

PLEASE PAY YOUR 2000 DUES! A MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION IS PROVIDED AT THE TOP OF THE NEXT PAGE!







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□\$2.00/Junior (und	der 17)	\$150.00/Lifetime
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Obituary: Lionel Shulz Key

Charlottesville lost its oldest active numismatist and the hobby lost one of its most faithful members when Lionel Schulz Key passed away on Feb 8 at the age of 94.

Until his death he regularly drove himself to meetings of Charlottesville's Blue Ridge Coin Club and Monticello Coin Club. He was listed as a charter member of both clubs.

Key was the retired area manager of Virginia Power Company. He had joined the utility as a meter reader in 1924 and stayed with them for 46 years.

For 34 years Lionel was also the chief of the Charlottesville Volunteer Fire Fighters, retiring from that post at age 78.

Numismatists knew him as the owner of an uncommonly eclectic collection. In addition to a wide range of domestic and foreign coins and banknotes, Key acquired over his long life all manner of Virginia numismatic exonomia which he often exhibited.

Lionel was a man of uncommon warmth and friendliness. Among the many civic awards bestowed on him was the Charlottesville Exchange Club's Book of Golden Deeds Award, and awards of recognition for service from the Kiwanis Club and the American Legion. In 1978 he was awarded what is considered the highest community service recognition in Charlottesville, the Paul Goodloe McIntire Award.

Key was a member of the Virginia Firefighters Hall of Fame, a past president and life member of the Virginia Fire Chief's Association, and a life member of the International Fire Chief's Association.

Few if any areas of the community did not benefit from his service. He was an active member of the Chamber of Commerce and the Historical Society, a founder and board member of Junior Achievement, and an honorary member of the Charlottesville Municipal Band.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Alice. Survivors include a daughter in Maryland, a son in Florida, and two grandchildren.

(Rey Barry, Blue Ridge CC)

BUTTERNUT BITES:#5

Traveling with Coins in a Vehicle.

Col. Steven Ellsworth

(This is the second of five articles regarding the security of coin collections.)

Few full time coin dealers with 10 years experience have avoided being a victim of theft. Some simply lost coins from shoplifting, while others were victims of murder to obtain their coins and collections. Some make the headlines, but most are never reported. Next to homes, vehicles are the most likely place for a theft to occur.

As I have previously written in an earlier security article, "one out of three collections will eventually be stolen. The impact is not only financial, but emotional as well. A sense of violation occurs that is difficult to describe. The loss has a negative impact to the victim in particular and to our hobby in general. Simply put, it's bad for business.

The age-old adage "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" could never be truer, than with security. The easiest way to prevent crime is to avoid it by not giving criminals the opportunity to perpetrate crimes against you.

In hopes of keeping the "joys of collecting" enjoyable and the dreams alive, these guidelines hopefully will help you reduce the risks of theft, for collectors and dealers alike. After studying hundreds of thefts, it is my belief that nearly always, one or more of these guidelines have been ignored. Security risks can never be eliminated, but risks can be managed to a tolerable level. Vigilance must always be maintained, as security is a constant. Be alert and aware of your surroundings. This alone can be an excellent defense, as criminals avoid vigilant persons.

Some of these suggestions you may already know about but may not practice. Some suggestions may be new, that you could put into practice. Few people can do all that I recommend, but the more you can implement, the lower your risk of being a target, and perhaps being a victim. My recommendations and suggestions can be useful to most collectors and dealers...if they will continually practice and apply them to their own situations.

Most security can be divided, and developed into four parts: *operational* security, *perimeter* security, *external* security and *interior* security.

Operational security would be how you operate or referred to as "your mode of operation" You need to ask yourself; "What kind of target am I presenting?" Perimeter security is considered in the immediate area near the target...you, and your valuables. As an example, while in your car, the area that you can physically

observe in all four directions would be considered the perimeter. *External security* is considered the outside shell or walls of your home or car. *Internal security* would be inside your car or home, or anywhere you can physically touch your coins. Your objective should be to try to think in ways you can improve and protect each of these four areas.

Security is a personal responsibility. Your security is not the responsibility of the police, politicians or government. They do not have the means or intentions to protect every citizen. Unless you are willing to cast your fate, and life, to the wind, your first line of security is you.

Insurance is an excellent idea for both collectors and dealers. The normal costs are approximately 1% a year. For professional collectors and dealers, this cost is a deductible expense. Most policies have a number of restrictions and exceptions including coins left in unattended vehicles. Some homeowners' policies will cover a small coin theft, but many have exclusion clauses. Read your insurance policy carefully.

At major coin shows, larger firms sometimes use armored transport for inventories and collections. At some, professional numismatists use US Postal Service registered mail or insured Federal Express to reduce the risk of loss. Be sure to keep in mind that the Postal service has a maximum dollar amount for each registered piece of mail of \$25,000. This may require sending multiple packages. Never send valuables certified mail. There is no recovery process on certified mail should it be lost. If feasible, consider these options, even if you use these services only occasionally. It may be worth the extra effort and expense to explore the logistics of them.

As with most types of security, traveling with coins the five P's are in effect; Prior Planning Prevents Poor Performance.

Operational:

Never, leave coins unattended in a vehicle! This is perhaps the single greatest security mistake you can make. I have talked with hundreds of dealers and collectors who have made this mistake. I have learned of collectors who parked their car in clear view, while they dined having supper, only to be able to see how fast the thieves worked entering their car and stealing their coins. Some professional car thieves can enter your car faster than you can with a key. Coins have been stolen out of cars in the process of loading and unloading them from the vehicle. Coins have been stolen out of vehicles parked at home, in a locked garage. Coins have been stolen from stalled vehicles on the roadways. The list of how and where coins have been stolen from vehicles is countless. If you get only one thing from this article, remember...never, never leave coins or valuables in an unattended in a vehicle!

When transporting coins and valuables in a vehicle, put on your very best driving hat. Be very alert, and drive defensively. Try to keep night driving to a minimum. Your reaction time is slower in most circumstances. Study the road map and route you are planning to drive. Plan checkpoints and safe havens, and the distance to each. Keep on your planned course or route. Decide early where you plan to fuel, eat, (use only a drive through eatery), or take a rest break. Know where your choke points (where you are most vulnerable) are, and have a plan in mind should your worst fears come to fruition. I would use backward planning, beginning with your arrival at home. Your home arrival may be the most obvious and most vulnerable choke point you have. Prioritize each so you will be even more vigilant at the most critical choke points.

If possible, try to avoid travel alone. Traveling with a companion will lower your risk of being a target by 70%. In the U.S. Army's Ranger School you always travel with a "Ranger Buddy", even on survival excesses. Traveling with a dog also will decrease your security risk, (they also smell better than most of my former Ranger Buddies after three weeks without a bath).

Try to vary your routine. Avoid easily observed routines. If every day you depart your home at 9:35AM, drive the exact same route, to the same destination, and return using the same route, you're broadcasting to the dumbest thief they have an opportunity for success. I had one dealer boast to me that after every weekend show, the first task he does on Monday morning is to be at his bank as they open, right at 9AM, to place his inventory in the bank's vault. When I mentioned that a dirty little secret of the American Banking Association is the staggering number of robberies in bank parking lots and at ATM's, his reply was, "I bank in a good neighborhood". If I were a bandit, I would prefer the better neighborhoods to the poorer ones, as my rate of return for my risk would more likely be better.

If you ever have the opportunity to enroll in a professional driving course, do it. What you learn will not only be valuable in your work, but will also make you a better and safer driver on the roadway. The premier course is the Bondurant School of High Performance Driving, in Phoenix Arizona. Many major corporations and government agencies use them. In addition to teaching racing and stunt driving, they also offer a specialized program for executive protection that works well for security transport of valuables.

One thing you quickly learn in a professional driving environment is that driving is 100% focus and concentration. Statistics will tell you that driving an automobile is the most dangerous task individuals do on a daily basis. An insurance actuary will tell you the single most dangerous driving situation is driving in front, behind or near a truck with a 40 ft. trailer. If you are in the habit of driving down the road, drinking coffee, smoking a cigarette, tuning the radio

and talking on a cell phone, you can't possibly drive safely. You not only are at risk, but you are putting at risk everyone else on the highway.

After you have mastered driving with both hands on the wheel, you are now ready to improve on the second most violated driving rule...following too close behind another vehicle. At 25mph, it is difficult to make a quick lane change to avoid an accident with less than 4 car lengths. At 65mph, unless you are a professional driver, you would be lucky to perform the maneuver in 10 car lengths.

The third major cause of accidents is too high of speed for the existing conditions. One of the greatest auto racers of all time was Sterling Moss. His most famous quote sums it up; "When approaching a turn, slow in...fast out, or fast in...dead out".

After speaking with numerous state troopers, I would recommend that you follow the "seven" rule. Try to avoid driving more or less than seven miles per hour from the posted speed limit. Driving either faster or slower may attract the attention of other drivers, or the police. If you have used alcohol or taken medications that may cause drowsiness, simply do not drive. Using your seatbelt prior to placing the car in gear is a given.

One clear advantage you will have over potential perpetrators is that while you are reading and putting into practice this article on security, they are most likely getting high on drugs and alcohol in preparation, or building courage, to perpetuate a crime against you.

Perimeter:

Make it a practice driving in a right lane. Do not drive in the left lane, except to pass. You will not only impede faster drivers, but could solicit road rage. This is a situation that defiantly does not qualify as a safe and secure trip. Try to be as low key as possible while traveling with valuables. Your objective is to travel from point A to point B without an incidence. Should you inadvertently irritate another driver, avoid eye contact and continue to drive. If you sense any escalation in the situation, slow down and let the other driver proceed. If you are still concerned, let the other vehicle precede you past an exit, then exit your vehicle and reenter the hi-way at another point, providing you can do it safely. Under no circumstance should you involve yourself further in a potential road rage situation.

Be very cautious and aware of being followed by another vehicle. When you are driving on highways, travel at different speeds for 20 to 30 minutes. A vehicle following you while traveling at a slower rate is more obvious than one traveling at a faster rate. During the first hour of travel, take an exit, and then return back on the highway. If you are being followed, it will make it difficult for

a bandit to follow. If you suspect you are being followed, exit, and make a right turn. If you are still concerned, make a second right turn. If you are still followed, you may have a problem. Should you make a third right turn, and are still being followed, you are! Do not stop. Under no circumstances should you drive to your home or hotel. If you feel your assailant knows you are aware of being followed, and your decision is to evade, place your emergency flashers on as it will make following more difficult. Night or day, your breaking points on turns will be disguised. If at all possible, drive directly to the nearest police or fire station.

If in an extreme case where you are forced off the road by an assailant, or are confronted by an unauthorized roadblock, in all circumstances, do not stop your vehicle. If you can't drive around or away from your assailants, perform either a forward or reverse 180-degree turn to avoid being forced to stop. This maneuver is not as difficult as it may look, if you have the proper training. If you have no way to drive away, you may be forced to drive through the roadblock. Knowing where to make contact with another vehicle to disable it and minimize damage to your own vehicle is critical. Most cars can sustain far more damage in the rear of the vehicle than to the front, and still be able to proceed. If the bandits have gone to that extent to stop you, your life will likely be expendable. Use your cell phone to summon help, but under no circumstance should you stop your vehicle. Even if you are carrying a weapon, and have been trained in it's use, it would be near impossible to use it while driving a vehicle and still maintain control. Your best form of defense is your own driving ability.

Should an identifiable police car stop you, signal and pull over and off of the far right side of the road, out of traffic and place your emergency flashers on. Turn your engine off and remain in your vehicle with both your hands on the wheel, clearly in view.

If an unmarked police car signals you, use your turn signal to move to the far right lane (where you should be driving to begin with), and use your arm to signal the car to move up alone side of you. If you can identify a uniformed police officer, then signal and pull over and off of the right side of the road, out of traffic and place your emergency flashers on. Leave your engine running; remain in your vehicle with both your hands on the wheel, clearly in view. Watch the officer approach and insure the stop is by an authorized law enforcement officer, before shutting off your engine.

What if you cannot identify a uniformed police officer, or the individual is also in plain clothes? Put your emergency flashers on but do not pull over. Use you car or cell phone and dial 911 to insure that the stop is authorized. If it is an authorized stop, they will call for backup by a marked police vehicle, driven by a uniformed officer. Only after you are assured that it is an authorized stop, should

you pull over and stop.

At this point, the officer has the right to ask questions of you concerning the operation of your vehicle. If the questions go beyond operation of your vehicle, I would be very cautious in answering them. Simply informing the officer that you wish to be represented by legal counsel may refute a question that may elicit self-incriminating information from you. What if the officer asks for your voluntary consent to search your vehicle? Many motorists think that if they refuse permission, it is a sign of guilt and willingly sign a consent form. I would advise against giving permission for a search. For an officer to conduct a legitimate search of a vehicle, they must have "probable cause." The courts have made it clear that a routine traffic stop does not provide the officer with enough probable cause to search your vehicle without your permission.

If the officer still were intent on searching your vehicle, I would calmly explain that you are couriering valuables and that should an unauthorized search be conducted that the insurance company will require a complete written inventory. I would provide a business card and make it clear that you are couriering approximate 2,000 individual items, of which each will need to be inventoried and signed by both you and the investigating officers. The estimated time of the required inventory will be approximately 8 to 10 hours and will need to be conducted in a secure facility, not on the side of the roadway. Your insurance company that insures your collection may be willing to provide you with a letter, identifying you as there insured, with this requirement. I know of few patrol officers that would look forward to 8 to 10 hours of paper work, unless there were substantial probable cause.

External:

Do a visual inspection of the exterior of your vehicle to look for any signs of tampering. Keep the vehicle clean so that any new smudges or marks can be seen. You can also use a small strip of clear cellophane tape to detect openings or tampering. Conduct a close visual inspection of your tires as well as the tires pressure. Look at the inside, edges and surfaces for punctures or devices, which will disable your vehicle latter. Look beneath the car, under the engine to see if any fluids are leaking. A favorite is for a bandit to puncture a radiator hose with a nail or awl. After 100 or so miles the rubber expands, causing your coolant to flow out, which will shortly overheat the vehicle, requiring you to pull off the road. When you are pulled off the road you are a very vulnerable target.

After you have traveled as far as possible with the full tank of gas, and need to refuel, select a location that you can fuel directly at the pump with a credit card. Again, keep your vehicle locked during the fueling process. When you are at a secure facility, use the restroom just prior to loading your coins in the car, even if you don't need to. It may be hours till a secure opportunity later allows it. If you

must use a restroom, and are traveling alone, be sure to park in clear view of the attendant. If you feel it appropriate ask them to keep an eye on your car, while you use the restroom, do so. Avoid state highway designated rest stops. In the past, they have attracted petty thieves. Do not stop in a high traffic truck stop. These actually may attract a higher rate of car and truck break-ins. When parking your vehicle, turn your front wheels to a sharp angle to make it more difficult to tow away.

If you feel yourself getting tired, stop at a national hotel/motel chain. The expense is nothing, compared to the potential loss of property or life. No matter where or when you park your vehicle, always back into the parking place. Should you have to make a rapid departure, it is faster than having to reverse first, which is much slower.

As you drive, try to leave yourself a way out. Avoid getting boxed in so you do not have an escape route. Stop signs and lights are particularly dangerous. When in city traffic, drive in the center lane, or whichever lane gives you the best escape route. When required to stop at stoplights and signs, do not pull up directly behind the cars bumper in front of you. If you are stopped and are approached by someone on foot whose hands are not in clear sight, if you can safely do it, drive away to avoid the incident, even if it requires you to drive through the traffic light or stop sign.

Some collectors have been victims of an intentional accident in order to distract them to steal their collection. "Car bumping" has been most prevalent in California, New York, Chicago, Miami and Houston. Keep the doors locked and windows up and pepper spray dispenser in close proximity. If a pedestrian approaches you, have it ready to use should the harmless pedestrian turn out to be an attacker who may break your window. However, you still would be safer to drive out of potential dangerous situation than to defend yourself.

If you are involved in a car jacking, immediately give up your car. Numerous people have been injured trying to resist. If however, during the car jacking, you are ordered back into your vehicle, do not do it, even if the bandit is armed. Your survival statistics are better that you are injured in a struggle to prevent kidnapping than to be kidnapped which will nearly always result in your being killed.

Internal:

I am sometimes asked what kind of vehicle is the most secure. Few people can afford to immediately go out and buy a new vehicle to transport coins. However, it would make good sense when purchasing a new vehicle to consider the vehicles safety and security systems, both passive and active. Many government agencies use either the GMC or Chevrolet Suburban. Both can be easily modified with additional security and safety options. Both the BMW and Mercedes have

optional locking systems and optional non-breakable windows that make it very difficult to penetrate. Somewhere between driving down the highway in a convertible with your hair in the wind, and your coins on the back seat, or to the extreme of traveling by an armored tank, is your own personal security solution.

What can you do to improve the security of your present vehicle? Insure you have a full tank of gas in your vehicle, prior to loading your coins, traveling to or from a coin show. High-test fuel gives you slightly better performance, a consideration for the return trip. Use a locking gas cap to prevent unwarranted fuel contamination. If your hood does not lock from the inside, get an internal lock installed. Dark tinted glass also helps to conceal your cargo. If your car has a vanity plate, especially ones that identifies you as a collector, replace it. They are too easy to be remembered and too easily followed. Remove all bumper stickers that identify you with anything that could be remotely controversial.

Join AAA or other roadside assistance service. Don't try to fix a flat while transporting valuables, as that may be the opportunity the bandits are waiting for. Be sure to have your vehicle maintained regularly. Replace the tires, hoses and brakes a little earlier than you normally would. The last thing you need is a breakdown. Keep road flares, flashlights and a fix-a-flat aerosol can (it may be valuable in some dangerous road situations), in easy access. There are also some new brands of tires that will allow you to continue to drive, even after a puncture or blowout.

An auto alarm is excellent. Use an ignition or computer shut-off switch type that disables the car. This will prevent the car's theft with your coins inside. A thief will not have to unload your coins, if they can simply steal your car. Place the alarm warning stickers on two windows. I know of two situations where coins were a bonus to a common auto theft. One dealer I know went into a 7-11 to get a cup of coffee, left his keys in the car with the engine running. When he returned, his car with his coin inventory was gone. He called the police, who later found his car, with his entire inventory still in the trunk of his car, undisturbed! This may qualify for the most careless case study I know, and also the luckiest.

A cell or car phone is a must. Pre-load the Highway patrol emergency numbers of the states that you will travel, for instant assistance. It never ceases to amaze me how quick state troupers respond, even in what appears to be a remote area. Some of the newer cell phones have the ability to scan the nearest 911 numbers from your location. In an emergency, you can even leave the phone on so the operator can monitor your situation. Use some discretion when using a cell phone discussing coin business, as these can be easily scanned with the use of simple electronic devices purchased at most radio or electrical outlets.

When packing your vehicle, always remember, "Coins in last when departing. Coins out first, when arriving."

Try to keep the passenger compartment or your car free of any loose article that may become a missile in an accident. Lock your coins and cases to your vehicle. A simple eyebolt can easily be installed in your truck to the frame of your car at any garage. Use a sheathed, coil bicycle lock. It will make a bump, snatch and run more difficult. Bolt cutters normally can't cut one. It will take most thieves over an hour to cut through it with a hacksaw. The handles of the cases are the weakest point. But without a handle, heavy cases are very difficult to carry. Overload the cases to be as heavy as possible. I figure that there may be 10,000 robbers who could probably out-run me, but none carrying a 100 lb. case using both their arms.

Be sure to lock your car doors immediately after entering your vehicle. An important point to remember is that you are far more likely to be a target returning home from a coin show than traveling to one.

Firearms:

Traveling with firearms in vehicles presents numerous problems for a citizen who desires to comply with the law. Unfortunately, there is little consistency in state firearms laws in regards to travel. Well meaning politicians have passed over 20,000 gun laws in the United States that have little, if any effect on the perpetrators of violent crime, but enormous ramifications on the average honest law abiding citizen who wishes to defend themselves. If your decision is to carry a firearm while traveling, I would thoroughly research out the laws in your state and local area, and any areas you plan to travel prior to doing so. You should do everything possible to comply with the law and still maintain your own comfort level of security. I would then get proper training from a certified National Rifle Association instructor on the use of firearms. And only then would I even consider the purchase of a weapon. There is now available a portable combination lock box which has a removable base plate that can bolted to your vehicle, to secure the weapon, making transport of a gun legal in most states. An additional base plate can also be used to secure the unit safely in the home or office.

Knowing that your best defense is driving away, around or through a situation, it may pay to put your money in a drivers seat designed for driving, with four point adjustable seat belts rather than a weapon.

We all make mistakes. But try to avoid repeating the same security mistakes. If you have violated your own security procedures and have not been a victim, consider yourself lucky. But to continually violate your own known security procedures, consider yourself a target. Should you want to gamble, try Las

Vegas. Since you know going in that you will lose, there is less stress and at least they may give you a free drink in the process, to help numb the loss.

This paper is not intended in any way to be a legal or tactical guide. All information is from open non-restricted sources. Your thoughts and ideas are always welcomed. Address them to: Colonel Steven Ellsworth, c/o BUTTER-NUT, Post Office Box 498, Clifton, Virginia 20124-0498. E-mail: Butternut@gslink.com WebSite: WWW.Butternut.org

Col. Steven Ellsworth is a highly decorated retired Army Colonel with over 32 years of service. Among his many assignments include serving in the Army's elite Special Forces or Green Berets, as a Ranger and as a Pathfinder. He has had assignments as a Physical, Intelligence and Communication Security Inspector. He has received specialized training in anti-terrorist, physical, intelligence and personal protective security. He currently is a full time coin dealer and collector and serves as the American Numismatic Association's Regional Coordinator for the Mid Atlantic States and is President of the Virginia Numismatic Association.

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BLUE RIDGE COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:30 pm on last Tuesdays at the Robert Smith Studio, upstairs, at 105 North 1st St., Charlottesville, Va. For information write to BRCC, 1561 Dairy Road., Charlottesville, VA 22903.

EARLY AMERICAN COPPERS. Regional meetings held at many major coin shows. Annual convention scheduled for Spring of 2001 in Fredericksburg, Va. Information: Rod Burress, 9743 Leacrest, Cincinnati, OH 45215.

MONTICELLO COIN CLUB. Meets on 2nd Thursdays at the Old Country Buffet on Rt. 29 N. in Charlottesville, Va. For info contact Sec.-Treas. Jim Luck, 301 E. Market St., Charlottesville, VA 22902, ph. (804) 295-1765.

PIEDMONT COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 3rd Tuesdays at the Volunteer Fire Dept., Collinsville, Va. For information write to Piedmont Coin Club, P.O. Box 418, Collinsville, VA 24078.

RAPPAHANNOCK AREA COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 3rd Tuesdays in the cafe of Borders Books & Music, Central Park, Fredericksburg, Va. For information contact Harry Frank, 5923 Cascade Dr., Fredericksburg, VA 22407.

RICHMOND COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:30 pm on 1st Tuesdays at the First Union Bank Bldg., 7 N. 8th St., Richmond, Va. For information contact Lynn Horn, President, 401 Smoketree Cir., Richmond VA 23236, 804-378-0806.

SALEM COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 2nd Mondays at the Roanoke Main Library, 706 S. Jefferson St., Roanoke, Va. For information contact Emmett Yonce, 2040 Roanoke Rd., Daleville, VA 24083.

SHENANDOAH VALLEY COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:30 pm on 2nd Mondays at the Mary Switzer Bldg., Woodrow Wilson Rehab. Ctr., Fishersville, Va. For information contact Linwood Wilkes, RR 6, Box 570-A, Staunton, VA 24401.

TIDEWATER COIN CLUB. Meets on 2nd Wednesdays at the VFW Hall, 4809 Bartee St., next to Toys-R-Us at Military Circle, Norfolk, Va. For information contact Malcolm Gutterman, P.O. Box 1145, Norfolk, VA 23501.

VIRGINIA PENINSULA COIN CLUB. Meets on 3rd Mondays at 7:30 pm at Sammy and Nick's Steak House, 2718 W. Mercury Blvd., in Hampton. For information write to VPCC, 140 Wellesley Dr., Newport News, VA 23606.

WARRENTON STAMP & COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 2nd Wednesdays at Warrenton Professional Center, 493 Blackwell Rd., Warrenton, Va. For information contact Toni Tripi at (540) 347-9212.

WASHINGTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY. Meets on 3rd Tuesdays at the Washington Congregational Church, 3526 Mass. Av. NW, Washington, D.C. For information write to Len Harsel, Box 2301, Springfield, VA 22152.

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Wake Forest Coins Collectors' Showcase May 19-21, Raleigh, NC. State Fairgrounds-Kerr Scott Building Atlantic Rarities Coin Exposition May 26-28, Baltimore, Md. **Baltimore Convention Center** BANC 2000 Coin Show Jun. 25, Towson, Md. Holiday Inn. 1100 Cromwell Bridge Road (Beltway Exit 29) Vienna Quarterly Stamp & Coin Show Aug. 5-6, Vienna, Va. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., off Park St. Oct. 20-22, Baltimore. Md. Suburban Baltimore / Washington Coin Show **Baltimore Convention Center** Nov. 4-5, Vienna, Va. Vienna Quarterly Stamp & Coin Show Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., off Park St. Carolina Coin, Stamp & Card Show Nov. 11-12, Raleigh, NC. State Fairgrounds, Holshouser Bldg. BANC 2000 Coin Show Nov. 19, Towson, Md. Holiday Inn, 1100 Cromwell Bridge Road (Beltway Exit 29)

Show promoters, please send in your show dates and corrections! This information needs to be as up-to-date and complete as possible.

Collectors, we recommend that you check with show promoters about schedule changes or cancellations before driving long distances.

This issue's Numismatic Trivia

The United States Mint began issuing cents in 1793, its first year of operation. Cents have been issued ever since then, except for one date. Which date is it for which no genuine cents are known?

(Answer next issue.)



THE MONEY \$TORE

WANTED: Your Civil War, Hard Times, Merchant, or Good For token Collection, also National Banknotes. Will Travel to purchase major collections. Stuart Jones, P.O. Box 118, Belair, MD 21014, ph. (410) 893-9783

WANTED: Stocks, Bonds & fancy old letterheads you don't know what to do with. Send photocopy or sample for offer. Will answer all requests. Bob Schell, 6804 Jeremiah Ct., Fairfax, VA 22039.

FOR SALE: My list for your SASE. Confederate/ 1862 Va/ WVa. Obsolete/ U.S./ Tokens / MPC / British World / Books. C.D. Damron, Rt. 4, Box 63K, St. Albans, WV 25177, ph. (304)768-6246

WANTED: Contemporary (to the Civil War) counterfeit Confederate notes for my personal collection. Please describe and price. Ned Lea, 8704 Kings Mill Place, Raleigh, NC 27615

FOR SALE: 1999 VNA Convention wooden nickels; 50¢ ea. + SASE. VNA c/o Ginnie Aldridge, 515 Pinehurst Ave., Colonial Heights, VA 23834

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION WANTED on signers of Va. colonial, other colonial, and Continental currency. Will pay for referenced information I don't have. David Consolvo, P.O. Box 153, Covesville, VA 22931, (804) 293-4371

DO YOU COLLECT WEB NOTES? or other US currency? Send a lg. SASE & receive a "FREE" currency price list. Happy Collecting! Barry Ciociola, P.O. Box 71646, Durham, NC 27722-1646

WANTED: United Daughters of the Confederacy medals awarded to military veterans. These bronze crosses cover the Civil War through Desert Storm. Charles Pfeiffer, 1401 Druid Rd., Maitland, FL 32751, (407) 644-0085

WANTED: Wooden nickels with buffalo facing right. Describe and price. Ginnie Aldridge, 515 Pinehurst Ave., Colonial Heights, VA 23834

WANTED: ELKS-Both BPOE & IBPOEW tokens. Price & describe in 1st letter. J.M. Boswell, P.O. Box 428, Gambrills, MD 21054-0428

WANTED: All foreign paper money, scrip & notgeld + US MPC & CSA notes. Daryl C. Spelbring, P.O. Box 633, Vienna, VA 22183, (703) 938-7267

LARGE CENT COLLECTORS! Join *The Early-Date Report*, a free 48-page collection census published twice yearly. For information contact Red Henry, P.O. Box 2498, Winchester, VA 22604. email: <redhenry@visuallink.com>

VNA MEMBERS: Send your free MONEY STORE ad (up to 30 words) to Red Henry, P.O. Box 2498, Winchester, VA 22604.

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THE YIRGINIA NUMISMATIST

JULY-AUGUST, 2000



Inside-

The Girl on the Draped Bust Coins:
Anne Willing Bingham of Philadelphia

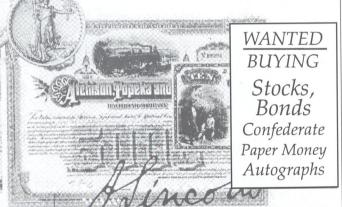




ISSN 0507-1194 VOLUME 36 NUMBER 4

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All advertising copy must be typed or camera-ready. Send ads to Red Henry, Editor, P.O. Box 2498, Winchester, VA 22604. Make all checks payable to Virginia Numismatic Association. The deadline for all copy is the 15th of the month preceding month of issue (e.g., April 15th for May 10th issue.) No ads will be accepted from minors without their parents' consent. All ads must have numismatic significance. Special or unusual copy requirements will be billed extra. If in doubt, please write for details.

The Virginia Numismatic Association has on file the names and addresses of its advertisers. Any complaints or requests for information regarding advertisers should be referred to The Virginia Numismatic Association, P.O. Box 2498, Winchester, VA 22604. The right to edit copy, to require payment in advance, and to decline any payment in advance is specifically reserved.

Signed letters to the Editor are invited from VNA members. Please include your name and address. Letters will be printed if space permits.

THE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST

VOLUME 36, No. 4 July - August, 2000

The VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST, the official publication of the Virginia Numismatic Association, is published six times per year. Articles and items for publication are welcomed. It is mailed from Hampton, Virginia, at the 3rd Class Rate and cannot be forwarded, so be sure to send your change of address.

Send mail relating to the magazine to Red Henry, Editor, P.O. Box 2498, Winchester, VA 22604.

Send correspondence about membership, address changes, etc., to Daryl Spelbring, Secretary, P.O. Box 633, Vienna, VA 22183.

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President's Message

Col. Steven K. Ellsworth, VNA President

What a great time for collecting coins and currency. The hobby continues to show very positive signs. The State Quarter program has really sparked interest among an entire new generation of collectors. Thousands of collectors, who assembled those "blue books with the holes" as kids, have now gotten out of college, got a home and family, and have come back into the fold to complete their collections. Many are bringing their children with them into the joys of collecting. Did you realize that if you were 12 years old today, you would have graduated from college before the Quarter program is completed? Then add the excitement of the new "golden" dollar, fanned by the new faces on the currency, making collecting more exciting than ever. The US mint has estimated that at the end of the quarter program there will be five million new collectors!

The good news is that your collection will most likely increase in value as more and more collectors enter the hobby. The bad news is that in ten years, it will be far more costly to "fill in those holes". It may be a good time to get out those books, and fill the holes of the missing coins now, while they are still affordable. A great place to start is at our Fall Convention, the

Virginia Numismatic Association's 42nd ANNUAL COIN & COLLECTIBLE SHOW & CONVENTION, September 8-9-10, 2000.

Please note that the dates have been changed from the ones previously listed. This will be the third year the annual event will be held in the R.J. Ernst Community Center, at the Annandale campus of the Northern Virginia Community College. Dealer setup is planned for 10am on Friday, with early bird passes sold for \$50 for VNA members. Life members receive Early Bird access for life at all VNA sponsored events. The show will open to the public at 3pm on Friday, 10-6 pm on Saturday, and 10-4pm on Sunday. This year's show and convention is shaping up to be the best yet. Mark your calendars early and plan on attending. For bourse information, please contact me.

I am pleased to announce that our 2001 Spring Show will be held in Fredericksburg, VA March 28th through April 1st, 2001. It will be a first in that we will have two member clubs sponsoring our spring show, The Early American Copper Club and The Rappahannock Coin Club. We are honored that EAC has chosen us to help with their National Convention; it will be one of the most exciting events in our history.

My very best regards, COL Steven Ellsworth, President VNA

Editor's Corner

Associate Editor Red Henry

Greetings to all! You're receiving this issue of The Virginia Numismatist a few weeks late, so that we can include all the VNA convention information possible. Your club officers have been working hard to organize the bourse, special events, and exhibits for this big event.

In response to several requests, a list of VNA officers is now printed in the magazine (see page 5). This was a good idea, because we all should be able to contact the club officers easily. Thanks for the suggestion!

Speaking of suggestions, *The Virginia Numismatist* needs letters and articles. You don't have to be a well-known numismatic researcher to write an article! If you have something to say about coins, paper money, or related items, write it up and send it. Article submissions on disc or by e-mail are encouraged (that's easier on me), but if you don't have a computer, just type the article or write it out neatly! We will try to publish every numismatic article and polite letter we receive, space permitting.

Some advertisers and one local club listing have been deleted from this issue for failure to renew their ads. If you are one of them and would like to renew, please send a note and a check to VNA Treasurer Claire Wall as soon as possible (her address is on page 5). Remember that in doing so, you are also benefitting our VNA organization.

You'll find an expanded local-club news section on pages 10 through 12 of this issue. If your local club has news of general interest to everyone, please write it up and send it in so that everyone can read about it. If you have photos of some special event, send those and we'll publish them if we can.

Two of our sister state clubs, the Blue Ridge Numismatic Association and the North Carolina Numismatic Association, are advertising their annual shows in this issue, in return for permitting us to advertise our show in their magazines. If you live within driving distance of either the BRNA or the NCNA shows, we encourage you to attend, because these shows have great reputations among collectors. We hope that you attend, and that you find some treasures when you do.

Red Henry, P.O. Box 2498, Winchester, Va. 22604 e-mail: <redhenry@visuallink.com>

Secretary Daryl Spelbring reports that the VNA now lists 300 regular members, 18 family, 12 club, 52 junior, 75 life (which includes some clubs) and 24 complimentary, for a total of 481. He has recently deleted 102 others for failure to renew. Several of those deleted were dealers, and we assume that they will need to rejoin if they intend to do the upcoming convention.

VNA WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

The following persons, who have applied for membership in the Virginia Numismatic Association, will become members 20 days from the mailing of this notice, unless objections are received, in which case the matter will be acted upon by the Board of Directors.

Applicant	Sponsor
Penny Anderson, Spotsylvania, Va.	S. Ellsworth
Guy H. Balsley, Glen Allen, Va.	S. Ellsworth
Ken Barlow, Eastover, SC	S. Ellsworth
Jim Bowers, Newport News, Va.	S. Ellsworth
Alvin J. D'Andrea, Beltsville, Md.	D. Spelbring
Charles L. Decker, Jr Virginia Beach, Va.	S.Ellsworth
Sam Foley, Virginia Beach, Va.	J. Leite
Robert C. Jones, Dahlgren, Va.	D. Spelbring
Bob Korver, Carrollton, Tx	D. Spelbring
Donald Massey, Suffolk, Va.	S. Ellsworth
James Polis, Bethesda, Md.	D. Spelbring
Jan Pugliese, Boonsboro, Md.	S. Ellsworth
Frank Pugliese, Boonsboro, Md.	S. Ellsworth
New Life Member: Robert F. Fritsch, Nashua, NH	S. Ellsworth

Converting to Life Membership: Shenandoah Valley Coin Club

/	
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Check one: ☐\$10.00/Indiv	idual 🗆 \$10.00/Club 🚨 \$15.00/Family
□ \$2.00/Junior	(under 17) 🔲 \$150.00/Lifetime
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	Your address information is kept confidential.)
Send with your check to:	Virginia Numismatic Association c/o Daryl C. Spelbring, Secretary P.O. Box 633 Vienna, VA 22183-0633



Virginia Numismatic Association Officers and Directors

President (Director): Steven K. Ellsworth PO Box 498, Clifton, VA 20124 email: Butternut@gslink.com

(703) 802-0252

1st Vice-president: Clay Everhart PO Box 2831, Reston, VA 20190

email: ccdeverh@aol.com

Associate Editor and 2nd Vice-president: Red Henry

PO Box 2498, Winchester, VA 22044 email: redhenry@visuallink.com

Director (Immediate Past Pres.): Mike Capen 103 Cohee Road, Blacksburg, VA 24060

(540) 961-2145 email: VNA1@aol.com

Director: Henry E. Hawkins

(540) 433-2223

Rt. 11, Box 190, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

email: HenryHawkins@FirstUnion.com

Director: Ray Haymaker

(540) 297-5898

115 Gross Point Drive, Huddleston, VA 24104

Director: Stuart Jones

(410) 893-2046

PO Box 118, Belair, MD 21014-0118

email: StuJones39@Hotmail.com

Director: Keith Littlefield

(703) 354-9544

3902 Rose Lane, Annandale, VA 22003

Director: David S. Scott

(540) 547-2675

10347 Walker Road, Culpeper, VA 22701 email: janedave@erols.com

Director: Andy Skrabalak

(703) 491-0336

PO Box 5234, Woodbridge, VA 22194

(703) 938-7267

Secretary (Director): Daryl C. Spelbring PO Box 633, Vienna, VA 22183

email: Hottub4@aol.com

Treasurer (Director): Claire Wall PO Box 1481, Rockville, MD 20849-1481 (301) 881-4990

VIRGINIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION 42nd ANNUAL COIN SHOW & CONVENTION PROGRAM

Friday, 8 September 2000

10am-3pm Dealer Registration/Setup, Entrance Hall

1pm Exhibitor Setup, Bourse Hall

3pm Show Opens to Public

7pm Show Closes

Saturday, 9 September 2000
8am Dealer Setup, Bourse Hall
9am Public Registration, Entrance Hall
9:15am Early American Copper Meet, Lecture Room D (Upstairs)
10am Official Ribbon Cutting, Entrance Hall
Show Opens to Public

11:00-2pm Young Numismatists & B.S.A. Merit Badge program,
Lecture Room D, Jim Belcher (Upstairs)
1:30pm "Collecting Early Copper Coins"
Douglas F. Bird, Dance Room
2:30pm "YN Money Grab," Bourse Hall (Exhibit Area)
3pm "Silver Dollar Collecting for the New Millennium"
A. E. Johnbrier Dance Room
4pm Exhibit Judging
6pm Show Closes
6:15-7pm VNA Board Meeting, Dance Room
(Open to all VNA members)

9-10pm Rag Pickers Bull Session & Gathering Len Harsel, Best Western/Fairfax (I-66 & Hwy. 123)

Sunday, 10 September 2000

7:30-8:30am Annual VNA Meeting & Breakfast & Awards (Free to members), Dance Room
8:30am Setup for Sunday Dealers Only, Bourse Hall
9am Dealer Admittance, Bourse Hall
10am Show Opens to Public

11am "Virginia Tokens of the Civil War Era"
David Schenkman, Dance Room
12:30pm "YN Money Grab," Bourse Hall (Exhibit Area)
4pm Show Closes
4pm-6pm Dealer Breakdown, Bourse Hall











The Virginia The Numismatic Association's



September 8-9-10, 2000.

Open to the public: 3pm Friday, Sept. 8th





10am-6pm Saturday, Sept. 9th 10am-4pm Sunday, Sept. 10th

Dealer setup is planned for 10am on Friday, with early bird passes sold for \$50 for VNA members. Life members receive Early Bird access for life at all VNA sponsored events.

Dealer and Bourse information: Col. Steven Ellsworth, (703)802-0252

Educational Exhibits Wanted!

"The VNA has always had a great tradition of competitive educational exhibits, and this year will be even better," stated Clay Everhart, Vice President. "We hope to encourage many first time exhibitors."

Awards will be presented for the following categories:

Best Paper Money Exhibit Award
The Best of Show Award
The Peoples Choice Award
The Best Young Numismatist Award, and
Two Outstanding Awards

Exhibitor information: See form on pages 12-13.

Many Fine Dealers on Schedule for VNA Convention

The number of great dealers who have acquired tables for our annual convention on September 8, 9th and 10 continues to grow daily! Dealers from as far as California, Maine and Florida will be attending. As of July 19th, the following dealers are scheduled:

Acropolis Coins Angel Dee's Coins B & H Coins Banknotes of the World Brian Kritt Butternut Carat-Coin-Collectibles CEO Coins Claire's Corner Coins of The Realm Commercial Coin Company Connections Coin Company Cotton's Coin & Currency David Schenkman Don Frederick Donald Apte, Inc. Donald Zauche Douglas F. Bird, Inc. First City Currency & Collectables **GES Numismatics** Glen Burger Rare Coins Harmony Exonumia Imperial Coins J & F Collectibles J & P Coins & Currency J. E. L. Coins J. P. Coins J.J.Van Grover, LTD. KBAC Ken Earles Len Harsel Liberty Coins Mercury Numismatics

Nanson Numimatics

Rahway Coins

Ray Burns Ltd. Royal Numismatics

Tom Reynolds

Paul Fink- Numismatist

The Elusive Spondulix

Vernon Marshall Coin

Tom's Coins & Currency

Wake Forest Coins Wake

A.E. Johnbrier Coins

Bowie MD Morgantown WV Woodbridge VA Jamison PA Vienna VA Burtonsville MD Clifton VA N. Olmsted OH Savage MD Rockville MD Rockville MD Camp Hill PA Sandston VA Cary NC Bryantown MD Annandale VA Leesburg VA Westminster MD Hermosa Beach CA St. Augustine FL Laurel MD Hampstead MD Central Falls RI Richmond VA Boonsboro MD Florence AL Baltimore MD Silver Springs VA Flushing NY Eastover SC Ashland VA Springfield VA Richmond VA Merrifield VA Glenela MD Timonium MD Spotsylvania VA Cleveland OH Roanoke VA Union NJ Omaha NE Annandale VA Jessup MD Forest NC

PLAN TO ATTEND

The

VIRGINIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
42nd ANNUAL COIN SHOW &
CONVENTION

September 8-9-10, 2000

Northern Virginia Community College R.J. Ernst Community Cultural Center 8333 Little River Turnpike (Capital Beltway Exit #6West) Annandale, Virginia

BUY-Sell-Trade FREE APPRAISALS & ESTIMATES

\$ 10,000,000 in currency & Coins offered to Sell and Trade from dealers Coast to Coast!

Table Fees: 8ft.w/2 cases 1 light =\$250, L.w/4 cases 2 lights = \$450, 2x8ft.w/4 cases 2 lights = \$475.

Sunday only table= \$39.

Dealer Setup: Friday, 10AM- 3pm. Public hours are Friday 3pm-7pm.Sat.10am-6pm; Sunday 10am-4pm. Dealers and assistants must be members of VNA. Family Weekend Show Pass: \$2. No charge to VNA members, or any guest with an ads or flyers.

Mail for an Application:

Colonel Steven Ellsworth, PO Box 498 Clifton, Virginia 20124 (703) 802-0252 phone (703) 830-9176 fax email: Butternut@gslink.com

Scenes from previous VNA conventions













FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT: COL Steven Ellsworth, Convention Chair Voice (703) 802-0252 FAX (703) 830-9176

42nd ANNUAL VIRGINIA STATE COIN SHOW ANNOUNCES CALLS FOR EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITORS

Annandale, Virginia— The Virginia Numismatic Association (VNA) has announced a call to all numismatists to exhibit in its 42nd Annual Show and Convention, at the R. J. Ernst Community Center, on the campus of the Northern Virginia Community College in Annandale, Virginia -- September 8th through 10, 2000.

"The VNA has always had a great tradition of competitive educational exhibits, and this year will be even better," stated Clay Everhart, Vice President.

"We hope to encourage many first time exhibitors. This year we will have awards for the following categories:

Best Paper Money Exhibit Award
The Best of Show Award
The Peoples Choice Award
The Best Young Numismatist Award, and
Two Outstanding Awards,"

Concluded Everhart.

The Annual VNA is the largest coin and currency show in Virginia. In the past, nearly 2,000 people have attended the states largest collector organization's annual event. Over 185 Dealers from across the nation display an estimated \$ 10,000,000.00 in coins and currency occupying every available space of the facility. The dates of the convention will be September 8th through 10th, 2000.

For more exhibit information, please see form in this publication. For dealer information, please contact Colonel Steven Ellsworth:
Email; BUTTERNUT@ GSLink.com
Address; PO BOX 498, Clifton, VA 20124-0498

VIRGINIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION EXHIBIT SPACE RESERVATION FORM

The second secon
Please choose one:
Application is hereby requested for table space for(#) of my own locked case(s), which are inches by inches.
I request the club to please provide case(s) with locks.
Please read and complete:
My display will be placed at approximately atAM/PM on (date). I plan to remove it on (date — preferred dates: drop off Fri. 9/8; pick-up Sun. 9/10).
Value of Exhibit \$ It is understood that NO fee will charged for exhibit table space.

Exhibitors will be given an early Exhibitor entry badge as early as at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, September 8th at no charge. The Bourse Czar for all exhibitors will make table location assignments.

Security precautions are being taken to provide every exhibitor with a maximum of protection. Police Security will be continuous on the premises from 10am Friday to 5pm Sunday. There is no insurance carried by the Coin Show, its committee, the sponsoring club, nor the facility. None of these mentioned parties will be held responsible for any loss, damage, or injury that might be sustained by those assigned space in the bourse, to their employees, or property, from any cause whatsoever, prior to, during, or subsequent to the period covered by this contract. The signature for the applicant and its acceptance by the Bourse Czar constitute a contract in accordance with the terms hereof.

Judging of Exhibits will begin at approximately 4:00 P.M. Saturday. People's choice ballets will continue to 5:00 P.M. Saturday. The Awards will consist of the following: (Previous years winners are not eligible for the same award), and be awarded at the Annual meeting on Sunday morning. Breakdown of exhibits is normally after 2pm on Sunday.

The "Charles J. Affleck" Award (For Best Paper Money Exhibit)

The "Best of Show" Award (Judged as the Outstanding Exhibit of the show)

The "Peoples Choice" Award (Judged by ballet of those attending the show)

The "Outstanding Young Numismatist" Award (Judged as the best junior (16 & under)

Judges will be selected by the Officers of the VNA using the following Standards for Judging the Exhibits:

Numismatic Educational Information Communicated to Viewer...30 points (Maximum) (A brief description of the exhibit in language readily understood by non-collectors) General effect of the Exhibit. (Neatness, order, & appearance)...20 points (Maximum) Originality (New or different approach for display).......20 points (Maximum) Completeness of Material (Conformity to the title & purpose).....15 points (Maximum) Condition of Material (Quality in relation to its scarcity).......10 points (Maximum) Rarity and/or Value of Material (Difficulty to procure or scarcity)......5 points (Maximum)

Applicant's Signature	Date
Applicant's Name	VNA#(Optional)
Firm Name (if applicable)	
Address	
State Zip Code	
Email	
FAX	
lease Mail Application to:	
colonel Steven Ellsworth irginia Numismatic Association O Box 498 clifton, Virginia 20124 hone: (703)802-0252 fax: (703)830-9176 mail: Butternut@gslink.com	
ate Application received	
ourse Czar, Approved by Bourse Czar	
cknowledge full receipt of my exhibit materia	als in proper order:
oplicant's Signature	Date
cinati ire	Date

Alexandria Coin Club Hosts an Educational Program on Coins and Coin Collecting as a Public Service

By Richard Jozefiak ANA District Delegate

About 50 future numismatists attended the educational program "An Introduction to Coin Collecting" held on May 6, 2000 at the Chinn Park Regional Library in Prince William, VA. Prince William County is located about 30 miles south of Washington, D.C.

The Alexandria Coin Club was invited by the Chinn Park Regional Library to host an educational program on coins and coin collecting. Five members of the club each set up displays, and spoke on a coin topic for about 10-15 minutes. The program lasted about two hours. This was the first time that the library had invited a coin club to its Saturday program series. The educational series is made possible with funding from the Friends of the Chinn Park Regional Library.

The Alexandria Coin Club gave State Quarter folders to the 21 YNs. Club members donated many prizes for raffles that were held between each speaker. A coin grab was held at the end of the program, and the YNs enjoyed getting a hand full of coins.

Literature was given out with information on the ANA, VNA (Virginia Numismatic Association), Alexandria Coin Club, and commercial coin publications. The Alexandria Coin Club signed up three new members at the program.

Alynne Skrabalak, club secretary and ANA representative coordinated the event. The speakers and their topics at the program were:

John Koebert U.S. Colonial Coins Andy Skrabalak U.S. Small Cents

Richard Jozefiak U.S. Type Coins 1861-Present Joel Cherry U.S. Gold Coins and Currency

George Watson Foreign Coins, Currency and Exonumia

11 year old Kate Jozefiak, a YN, set up a display of her coin collection, and answered several questions on it. Club members answered questions on coins, and gave opinions of the coins people brought in to have examined.



The crowd on May 6th included many future numismatists



Richard Jozefiak talks about the State Quarter folders



Andy Skrabalak speaks as Joel Cherry looks on





(Richard Jozefiak photos)

Shenandoah Valley Coin Club

Our show is scheduled for Dec. 2nd & 3rd at Expoland in Fishersville Va. We usually have about 45 tables and attract people from throughout the Shenandoah Valley. My name is Rich Songer. I have been a member of the SVCC for 11 years. They have asked me to be the Bourse Chairman for this coming show. With the release of the Virginia State Quarter we are trtying to sponsor an exhibit on Virginia Numismatics. Does the VNA have any material or information on the new Quarter or other interesting items? The club is a member of the VNA.

Please contact me at: Richard B Songer 1231 Sunset Lane Waynesboro, Va. 22980 (540) 942-1023 E-Mail Songer@cfw.com

Virginia Peninsula Coin Club

The *VPCC Gazette* reported the results of this year's election. The following are the elected officers for the upcoming year of 2000-2001:

Mr Rick Cubbins President Mr Wallace Harding Vice President Dr Jim Harmon Secretary-treasurer Mr Lee Bollert Sqt at Arms Mr Tom Scull Board of Directors Dr Bob Dale Board of Directors Mr Jim Ross Board of Directors Mr John Gearhart Board of Directors

Smoketree Jr. Coin and Stamp Club

Lynn Horn reports that due to personal reasons, she and her husband may be moving out of the area soon, an d she will turn direction of the Junior Coin Club over to the Richmond club. Lynn thanks all the donors who have contributed thousands of stamps and coins to the junior clubs. With your help, Lynn has established 11 new clubs in the area of the Chesterfield School District, providing safe places for children to go after school and a numismatic hobby to enjoy. She says, "Thank you and God Bless you for all that you have done."

The Girl on the Draped-Bust Coins: Anne Willing Bingham of Philadelphia

Red Henry

On the way back from a local coin show a few months ago, I stopped in a West Virginia junk store to look for old books and other entertaining items. I was browsing along a shelf of books when my eye lit on a book title, gilt on gray cloth binding: "The Golden Voyage: The Life and Times of William Bingham, 1762-1804." I was going on past when something

said, Stop. Look at this book.

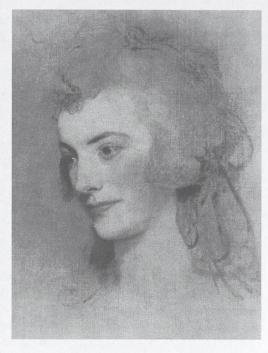
"William Bingham...William Bingham..." I said to myself. How did I remember this name? From history? Books? Maps? Family History? Coins? I took the book off the shelf and began examining it, trying to think of where that name came from. After twenty or thirty seconds, an echo finally ran through my mind of some words written years ago by Walter Breen in his *Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins:* "The portrait of Ms. Liberty is after a drawing by Gilbert Stuart, modeled by Mrs. William Bingham (nèe Ann Willing)." Was the William Bingham in this book the same as Anne Willing's husband? The dates (1762-1804) seemed right. I turned to the index and quickly looked up a couple of items. The William Bingham of this book did indeed have a wife named Anne Willing. He was from Philadelphia, and he knew Gilbert Stuart. The pieces were fitting together already. I had an important book here for coin collecting.

A very common obverse type on our surviving early American coinage is the Draped Bust design, introduced on dollars dated 1795 and continued (with some changes) through half cents dated 1809. This design was used on U.S. coins of several denominations, and collectors have known for years the identity of the person whose portrait was chosen to portray Ms. Liberty. However, little has been known about her besides her name and the fact that she was from Philadelphia. The biography of her husband enables us to fill in many facts about her family,

and about how Mr. Stuart came to draw her portrait.

Anne Willing came from a successful Philadelphia family well known for its prosperity and the politics (patriotic and otherwise) of its members. Anne's great-great grandfather Edward Shippen, b.1639, became Mayor of Philadelphia, Speaker of the Assembly, and Chief Justice of the Colony, and was reported to possess "the biggest person, the biggest house, and the biggest coach in the city." His son Joseph, b.1679, produced a famous family including grandson Edward Shippen, Chief Justice of Pennsylvania, and Edward's daughter Peggy, who in 1779 married a popular young American general named Benedict Arnold. One of Peggy's sisters, the widowed Mrs. Theodosia Prevost, later married a dashing former military hero and lawyer named Aaron Burr.

We find interesting facts closer to our story if we follow the family of Joseph Shippen's daughter Anne. She married Charles Willing, of another prosperous Philadelphia family. Among their offspring were William Willing and his son, also named William, pioneering American surgeons. Another child of Anne and Charles was Mary (or Molly) Willing, wife of William Byrd III, who inherited and dissipated one of the largest fortunes in Virginia. Following her husband's suicide on New Year's Day 1777, Molly Willing entertained officers commanding a British invasion of Virginia with such hospitality that she earned the salacious sobriquet "Willing Molly" from disapproving local patriots.



Ann Willing Bingham, Age 21, portrait by Gilbert Stuart

But we find a more direct connection to our story if we consider the family of Molly's brother Judge Thomas Willing, b.1731, who served as Mayor of Philadelphia and as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the Province. His business and shipping operations extended from Philadelphia to Europe and the West Indies. Thomas was partner in business and politics with Robert Morris. These two were local leaders of resistance to the Stamp Act, as well as in passing the Philadelphia resolution to convene the Second Continental Congress, to which Thomas was a delegate.

At age 32, Thomas married 18-year-old Ann McCall, a young lady known for her "amiable features" and good manners. The oldest of their many children, born about 1764, was named Anne. Her parents' house and large grounds had been established by her grandfather Charles Willing in Philadelphia, located between Third, Fourth and Spruce Streets and Willing's Alley. Anne, nicknamed Nancy, grew up in an opulent household, and was given a thorough education in English, foreign languages, music, and other accomplishments considered suitable for young ladies of her day. She naturally became acquainted with many of the most remarkable people in town (many of whom were her relatives), and during the Revolution, George Washington made his headquarters for some time in the house next door, in which young Anne

was a familiar visitor. By age 16, when she met William Bingham, she was "the most beautiful young woman in Philadelphia."

On October 26th, 1780, Anne married the 28-year-old Mr. Bingham, an energetic businessman whose dealings in America and the West Indies guaranteed the couple a life of plenty and ease. Anne's beauty was remarked on by men and women alike. A lady in Philadelphia wrote: "Nobody here will be able to make the figure they do; equipage, house, cloathes, are all the newest taste,—and yet some people wonder at the match. She but sixteen and such a perfect form. His appearance is less amiable."

Following their marriage, William Bingham continued his pursuit of wealth and influence. He and Anne made an extended trip to Europe for business and personal reasons, enjoying social life in both Paris and London. While visiting the latter city in April of 1785, they made the acquaintance of portraitist Gilbert Stuart.

Stuart, an artistic genius noted alike for talent and improvidence, was engaged in painting portraits at the price of 30 guineas a head (about \$160.00, a lot of money in the 1700's). He reportedly did not like to paint either children or groups, but somehow—probably by offering plenty of money—Bingham arranged to have a family portrait made of himself, Anne, and their two children. The family portrait was begun but never completed. The temperamental Stuart apparently gave up the project, possibly due to suggestions or requests concerning the work, or other "interference" by the Binghams. Along with the unfinished portrait, Stuart's preparatory sketch of Anne has survived, and is presented at left. This, which was later copied by other painters, is the only original view of Anne which I have found except for the Draped Bust coin types themselves.

When comparing this view of Anne with the coin designs, we should consider that she was 21 when this sketch was made, but about ten years older when her portrait was taken for the Mint in 1795. In addition, according to descriptions printed by Alberts, she gradually gained a little weight as she grew older. The possibility that her portrait may have suffered at the hands of the mint engraver is discussed below. To my eye, Anne as seen in the sketch resembles the original "first hair style" cent design more than the revised "second hair style" design introduced during 1798. The designs for the larger silver denominations



Ann Willing Bingham, as modeled on the Draped Bust silver dollar.

may have been made with more care, and the larger planchets of the halves and dollars permitted a more detailed presentation, so a typical Draped Bust dollar obverse is presented at the bottom of the preceding page.

The Binghams' association with Gilbert Stuart did not end with the abortive family portrait. By the spring of 1796, Bingham was a very wealthy United States Senator, and extremely influential in the government. In April of that year, while Stuart was residing in America, the Binghams arranged with him and President Washington that the painter should make a full-length portrait of Washington at Bingham's expense. In November, the majestic eight-foottall canvas was finished. Bingham had Stuart make him a replica of the painting before shipping the original to England as a present to his friend Lord Lansdowne, a great admirer of Washington. This full-length portrait has been extensively reproduced, and is now one of the most familiar views of President Washington.

Before Stuart began Washington's portrait, in August 1795 or earlier, he executed a mint commission to make a profile sketch of Anne to be used in new U.S. coin designs. Why was Anne chosen as the subject of the sketch? I believe that several factors were at work. First, she and her husband knew Gilbert Stuart and (in spite of the 1785 family portrait debacle) were on reasonably good terms with him. Second, Anne's remarkable personal attractiveness was still widely regarded in Philadelphia, the city of the government and of the mint. Third, and most important of all, William Bingham had for his whole life pursued power and money—and what better combination of these achievements could be imagined, than for his own wife to be portrayed on United States coins? She would personify the combination of money and governmental power—his goals and dreams.

The new Draped Bust type was used at first on silver coins, and the cents had to wait until mid-1796 for their new design. Mint Engraver Robert Scot and Assistant Coiner Adam Eckfeldt collaborated to produce the new master die. The accuracy with which Scot reproduced the Stuart sketch has been called into question. Gilbert Stuart may have been a most celebrated portraitist, and Anne Bingham may have been the most beautiful woman in the city, but Breen sardonically wrote, "not that this or the Gilbert Stuart connection could be proved by Scot's device punch."

My judgement of the design is more forgiving than Walter's. I believe that the Draped Bust cents are some of the nicest coins produced during the mint's early years, and I will always enjoy the examples in my collection. In fact, now I may have to start concentrating on the Draped-Bust coins. In the unexpected way in which historical connections frequently reveal themselves, I have found more interest than I expected to find in Anne and her family. You see, Anne's grandfather Charles Willing had a granddaughter, b.1766, named Evelyn Taylor Byrd, a Virginia lady well known to regional genealogists. She had a great-grandson, b.1842, named William E. Cameron, who also lived in Virginia, and he had a great-great grandson, b.1948, named... Red Henry.

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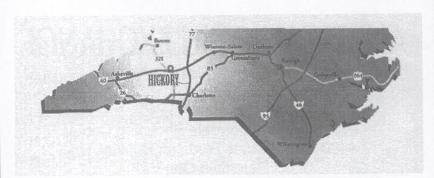
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BLUE RIDGE COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:30 pm on last Tuesdays at the Robert Smith Studio, upstairs, at 105 North 1st St., Charlottesville, Va. For information write to BRCC, 1561 Dairy Road., Charlottesville, VA 22903.

EARLY AMERICAN COPPERS. Regional meetings held at many major coin shows. Annual convention scheduled for Spring of 2001 in Fredericksburg, Va. Information: Rod Burress, 9743 Leacrest, Cincinnati, OH 45215.

PIEDMONT COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 3rd Tuesdays at the Volunteer Fire Dept., Collinsville, Va. For information write to Piedmont Coin Club, P.O. Box 418, Collinsville, VA 24078.

RAPPAHANNOCK AREA COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 3rd Tuesdays in the cafe of Borders Books & Music, Central Park, Fredericksburg, Va. For information contact Harry Frank, 5923 Cascade Dr., Fredericksburg, VA 22407.

RICHMOND COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:30 pm on 1st Tuesdays at the First Union Bank Bldg., 7 N. 8th St., Richmond, Va. For information contact Lynn Horn, President, 401 Smoketree Cir., Richmond VA 23236, 804-378-0806.

SALEM COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 2nd Mondays at the Roanoke Main Library, 706 S. Jefferson St., Roanoke, Va. For information contact Emmett Yonce, 2040 Roanoke Rd., Daleville, VA 24083.

SHENANDOAH VALLEY COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:30 pm on 2nd Mondays at the Mary Switzer Bldg., Woodrow Wilson Rehab. Ctr., Fishersville, Va. For information contact Doug Seal, P.O. Box 598, Crozet, VA 22932.

TIDEWATER COIN CLUB. Meets on 2nd Wednesdays at the VFW Hall, 4809 Bartee St., next to Toys-R-Us at Military Circle, Norfolk, Va. For information contact Malcolm Gutterman, P.O. Box 1145, Norfolk, VA 23501.

VIRGINIA PENINSULA COIN CLUB. Meets on 3rd Mondays at 7:30 pm at Sammy and Nick's Steak House, 2718 W. Mercury Blvd., in Hampton. For information write to VPCC, 140 Wellesley Dr., Newport News, VA 23606.

WARRENTON STAMP & COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 2nd Wednesdays at Warrenton Professional Center, 493 Blackwell Rd., Warrenton, Va. For information contact Toni Tripi at (540) 347-9212.

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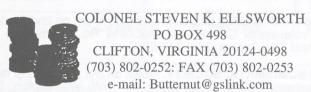
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Aug. 25-26-27, Dalton, Ga. Blue Ridge Numismatic Assn. Convention NW Georgia Trade Center (I-75 Exit 136), Dalton, Ga.

Sept. 8-9-10, Annandale, Va. VNA 42nd Annual Convention
Ernst Community Center, Annandale Campus, N. Va. Community College

Oct. 13-15, Hickory, NC. NCNA 42nd Annual Convention and Coin Show Hickory Metro Convention Center (I-40 Exit 125)

Oct. 20-22, Baltimore. Md. Suburban Baltimore / Washington Coin Show Baltimore Convention Center

Nov. 4-5, Vienna, Va. Vienna Quarterly Stamp & Coin Show Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., off Park St.

Nov. 11-12, Raleigh, NC.

Carolina Coin, Stamp & Card Show State Fairgrounds, Holshouser Bldg.

Nov. 19, Towson, Md.

Holiday Inn, 1100 Cromwell Bridge Road (Beltway Exit 29)

Show promoters, please send in your show dates and corrections! This information needs to be as up-to-date and complete as possible.

Collectors, we recommend that you check with show promoters about schedule changes or cancellations before driving long distances.

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FOR SALE: 1999 VNA Convention wooden nickels; 50¢ ea. + SASE. VNA c/o Ginnie Aldridge, 515 Pinehurst Ave., Colonial Heights, VA 23834

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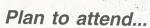


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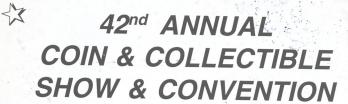


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THE YIRGINIA NUMISMATIST

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 2000

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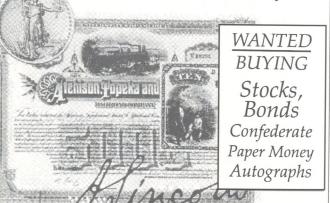


Jim Ruehrmund receives Numismatic Ambassador award

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Signed letters to the Editor are invited from VNA members. Please include your name and address. Letters will be printed if space permits.

THE YIRGINIA NUMISMATIST

VOLUME 36, No. 5 September-October, 2000

The VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST, the official publication of the Virginia Numismatic Association, is published six times per year. Articles and items for publication are welcomed. It is mailed from Hampton, Virginia, at the 3rd Class Rate and cannot be forwarded, so be sure to send your change of address.

Send mail relating to the magazine to Red Henry, Editor, P.O. Box 2498, Winchester, VA 22604.

Send correspondence about membership, address changes, etc., to Daryl Spelbring, Secretary, P.O. Box 633, Vienna, VA 22183.

IN THIS ISSUE

Front cover: Gar Travis, Jerry Kockel, and David C. Harper, presenting the Numismatic Ambassador award to Jim Ruehrmund. (Bill Stratemeyer photo)

President's Message

Col. Steven K. Ellsworth, VNA President

Our 42nd Annual Convention was our best ever, with more educational lectures, exhibits and public attendance, not to mention another great mix of dealers from across the country. If you did not see the full color page coverage given to our show in Numismatic News, be sure to see it, as it is superb!

I want to congratulate all the exhibit winners, and give a special note to congratulations to Jim Ruehrmund, who was named a "Numismatic Ambassador" by David Harper, the editor of *Numismatic News*. Many consider this prestigious award as the pinnacle in a numismatist's life. Virginia has only had one other individual awarded this honor. The award was presented at our annual breakfast meeting with over 35 in attendance. A special congratulation goes to Jim.

The convention simply would not happen if it were not for a great bunch of volunteers. Clay Everhart especially worked hard on the exhibits and assisted in helping to keep things going. Mike Capen and Dave Scott insured that our registration went smooth as silk. Len Harsel and Daryl Spelbring ran the "Rag Pickers", and in addition Daryl always does a great job with the membership. Claire Wall keeps track of every penny in our accounts. Thanks to Gar Travis and Gail Baker for judging the exhibits, and Jim Belcher always runs an outstanding Young Numismatist program. And of course Big Red, who puts all this to print. For the hundreds of VNA members, "Thank you all very much"!

I want to recognize Henry Hawkins, Keith Littlefield, Jim Ruehrmund, Dave Scott, Andy Skrabalak and Daryl Spelbring for all their past support and help they have given VNA while serving on the board for the last three years. They have all contributed immensely on improving our club during their term. Their terms have expired but they can all proudly say, "The club is a little better after my work". Their vacancies, according to our revised constitution, need not be filled, as the number of elected board members was decreased to five this last year.

We are looking forward to The 3rd Annual VNA Spring Show, and also to sponsoring the Early American Copper Club's 28th Annual National Convention, which will be one of the most exciting events in VNA history. It will be a first, in that we will have two member clubs sponsoring our spring show, EAC and The Rappahannock. It will be held in Fredericksburg, VA March 28th through April 1st, 2001, at the Holiday Inn Select. Special rates have been arranged for. EAC is noted for being the premiere specialty collecting organization in the country. This will be an opportunity for all VNA members to learn more about our nation's early coinage, from the world's foremost experts. You will also see some of the finest examples of this type of coinage in existence. The bourse will open on Friday, March

30th and end on April 1st. I am sure that a number of VNA members will also want to join EAC after attending. More details will follow in the next issue of our magazine. But be sure to plan on being at this show, it will be great!

My very best regards,

COL Steven Ellsworth, President, VNA

Editor's Corner

Red Henry

As we celebrate our very successful 2000 VNA Convention, a big "Thank you!" goes out to the VNA members who put it together! Thanks also to the folks who have helped us out by sending convention photographs and write-ups. Those items really help to make the convention live on in these pages, and to bring some of the convention's spirit and atmosphere to the collectors and others who couldn't attend.

As we mentioned last time, due to our earlier convention dates this year, both the July issue and this September issue are reaching you a few weeks late. This is so that we print the fullest information and coverage of the convention.

We've had some inquiries from dealers, about whether advertising space is available in this magazine. YES! We can run your ad! Ad rates here in TVN are very reasonable (see rate chart on p.1), and we invite you to run a new ad or to make your present ad larger. You can send anything from a rough sketch to camera-ready copy, or we can design the ad for you at no charge.

Show promoters, PLEASE send us your dates! If we do not hear from you, we have to depend on magazine listings, which may not be current or accurate. IT IS WORTH YOUR WHILE, because your free listing in this magazine will help bring collectors in the door.

Finally, we want to add our congratulations to Jim Ruehrmund for receiving the Numismatic Ambassador award. This award, presented to Jim at the convention Awards Breakfast by David C. Harper of *Numismatic News*, recognized Jim for his long-standing contributions to our club and to our hobby at large. Among his many numismatic activities, Jim has served for extended periods in VNA club offices. He held things together for many years as combined VNA Secretary, Treasurer, and magazine Editor, providing VNA members' primary link with each other and with the club organization. See the September 26th issue of Numismatic News for a very complimentary and detailed write-up on Jim's numismatic career. Congratulations, Jim!

Red Henry, P.O. Box 2498, Winchester, VA. 22604 e-mail: <redhenry@visuallink.com>

VNA WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

The following persons, who have applied for membership in the Virginia Numismatic Association, will become members 20 days from the mailing of this notice, unless objections are received, in which case the matter will be acted upon by the Board of Directors.

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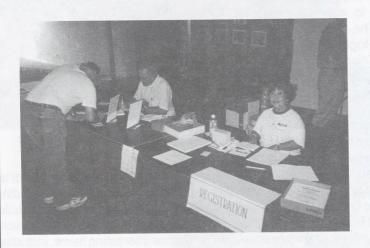
Just as we are going to press, we've learned of the death of Steve Bennett, former VNA President and long-time Petersburg dealer. According to our information, Steve died of cancer on Wednesday, September 27th. We'll try to gather more details for a regular obituary in the next issue.



VNA 42nd ANNUAL COIN & COLLECTIBLE SHOW & CONVENTION

Annandale, Virginia

Scenes and write-ups from this year's VNA convention





Dave Scott

I was there for Saturday only, and assisted with registration. By about 3:30 the incoming crowd had slowed down. However, I think we had a good, strong, interested group of people, with lots of Young Numismatists who were genuinely interested in buying. Jim Belcher did his usual wonderful job with the YN's,

Red Henry

This year's VNA Convention provided plenty of opportunity for collecting, education, and camraderie.

I was able to attend for most of Saturday. The day started at 9:15 with a get-together of the Early American Coppers Club. We discussed not only coins but also plans for our national 2001 convention in Fredericksburg. We had a good crowd for the meeting (see photo).

At 10:00 the show opened, so we trooped downstairs to begin prospecting.



Early American Coppers meeting

The bourse featured dealers with collector coins of all types, so those of us hunting for early American material had plenty to look at. After upgrading several large cent varieties, I went around to look over some dealers' stocks in Greek and Roman bronze. My finds included a small bronze of Pantikapaion, a city previously lacking in my collection, and other interesting items, including possible Celtic copies of S-1636 of Maroneia (the familiar prancing horse / grapevine reverse) and of S-1558 of Abdera (Apollo / Griffin).



By this time it was midafternoon, and I needed to return home due to some personal health considerations. I regretted missing the board meeting that evening, but I hope to make it next time. All in all, the convention seemed well-attended and well-run, and it was successful for most of the dealers I spoke with. "Great Job!" to all the people who helped make it happen.

More convention scenes







VNA ANNUAL BOARD MEETING NORTHERN VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SATURDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 2000

The Board met at 6:00 p.m; those present included:

Officers, Directors, Others Present: Steve Ellsworth, President; Mike Capen (Past President); Clay Everhart, First Vice President; Claire Wall, Treasurer; Daryl Spelbring, Secretary; Directors, Stuart Jones, Keith Littlefield, also Phil Darby, Charles Cataldo, Henry Hawkins, Len Harsel, Gail Baker, Doug Bird.

6:00 p.m. *Minutes/Update of Officers and Directors*: Last meetings minutes were read by Clay Everhart, motion to accept minutes passed.

6:05 p.m. *Convention*: Steve Ellsworth makes opening statement, upbeat about show, attendance is up, many fine exhibits and meetings are elaborated upon.

6:10 p.m. Financial Report: Claire Wall discusses convention expenses, makes motion to put \$7500.00 currently in VNA checking account into an IRA account to gain interest. Motion accepted and passed.

6:15 p.m. Secretary Report/Business: Report given by Daryl Spelbring — Life Membership List. List given to Clay Everhart of new life members, eight new members applied since last board meeting 10/31/99 — Robert Fritsch, L0098; Shenandoah Valley Coin Club, L0097; Blue Ridge Coin Club, L0096; Gary McNorton, L0095; John Hummel, L0094; James Beckner, L0093; Don Garst, L0092; David Damron, L0091. Motion made and passed to accept new members. Total now 98 + 2 others on file = 100 now issued. Steve Ellsworth to call Rudy of ANA re: get medals made, requests \$800.00, motion passed unanimously.

6:20 p.m. Spring show convention report: Steve Ellsworth discussed the proposed combination of the Rappahannock, EAC (Early American Copper) and VNA shows this spring in Fredericksburg, VA, March 28th - April 1st. Steve hands out convention folders for the event. Long discussion ensues about the upcoming show.

6:40 p.m. Other business:

- Ads in other clubs suggested for the Spring Show.

- Steve Ellsworth comments on his efforts in Richmond to eliminate Sales tax on coins in the State of Virginia. Progress is slow going but he sees some light at the end of the tunnel.
- Steve Ellsworth announces this will be his last year to run VNA show. He will do above mentioned Spring show, but that will be his last. He said he signed on for three years, and now it's time to pass on the torch to someone else. Steve jokingly asks Keith Littlefield to do it again. Then Steve suggests letting outside agency start running VNA shows. Dan Cocker services are suggested as a possible candidate for the job. A long discussion ensues about the pros and cons of letting an outside service handle the running of the show. A \$1000.00 fee is mentioned. VNA would still do the exhibits and some meetings. Steve gives one last chance for someone else to volunteer to run the show but nobody raised their hand or showed any interest. So he made a motion, and it was passed, to look into/use Dan Coaker.
- Keith Littlefield mentions that he still has books on obsolete VA paper money available, wholesale price is \$30.00, regular \$50.00.
- Token books sold out.
- -First Vice President Clay Everhart thanks Steve Ellsworth publicly for three great years of VNA shows, stating: "Frankly, before Steve Ellsworth took over, I had stopped going to the VNA shows at the Westpark. There just weren't enough dealers. Now, with Steve on the job, the show has changed miraculously, with dealers galore. As a collector, I now look forward to VNA as much as I do the Baltimore shows."

The subject of the next day's [Sunday morning] meeting was brought up, hoping to generate interest and attract a large audience for free breakfast and awards for the 7:00 a.m. engagement.

7:01 p.m. Meeting Adjourns.

[Postscript, the 9/10/00 7:00 a.m. Sunday morning meeting was a huge success with over 35 attendees. The food was a little late so it was eaten after honoring Jim Ruehrmund for a lifetime of numismatic/civic duties — it was very moving and a great moment; also, exhibit awards were also given out, with some closing words by Steve Ellsworth.]

Scenes from the VNA Awards Breakfast



Jerry Kochel receives the Best of Show award for his exhibit, "Simulation of the Louis Helfinstein Sale" from Gar Travis, ANA Assistant National Regional Coordinator.

Bill Stratemeyer receives the award for Best Paper Money Exhibit, for his display entitled "Panic and Depression of 1837 to 1841, Patapsco Saving Fund of Baltimore."





Clay Everhart receives the People's Choice award for his exhibit, "Large Cent Varieties of 1796."

(Photos courtesy of Bill Stratemeyer)



Simcha Kuritzky receives both Outstanding Exhibit awards for his two displays, including The Israeli Sheqel—A Study of Inflation.

Mr. David Harper of Numismatic News, speaking before presenting

the Numismatic Ambassador Award to Jim Ruehrmund.



Presentation of the award to Jim.



VNA Notes

Numismatic News featured our convention in their September 26th issue. Just turn to page 20 of that publication, and you'll see a big spread of nice-looking color photos, covering many convention events. You can glimpse Your Editor, in a photo at the bottom of the page.

In addition to the page full of convention photos, NN also ran a nice article and photo regarding Jim Ruehrmund's Numismatic Ambassador award. The write-up included many informative details of Jim's hobby career.

Ginnie Aldridge reports that she will no longer carry on the tradition of the VNA Convention wooden nickel. She writes, "Having designed and sold the VNA woods from 1986 through 1999, it is time for someone else to take over this labor of love." See her new ad in our Money \$tore section (p.20).

Local shows in Virginia appear to be prospering. Just last Saturday (Sept. 30), I attended the Blue Ridge and Monticello Coin Club show in Charlottesville. There was a very good collector turnout, and the dealers offered an excellent variety of collectable coins. I picked up a few old British pieces—a Scottish Bawbee of Charles II, an Irish "gun money" half-crown of James II, and a Turner of William and Mary—all hard to find in acceptable condition, and all at affordable prices. Come out to your local shows! You'll be glad you did.

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ALEXANDRIA COIN CLUB. Meets at 8:00 pm on 3rd Wednesdays at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. in Alexandria. For information contact Alynne Skrabalak, P.O. Box 5234, Woodbridge, VA 22194.

BLUE RIDGE COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:30 pm on last Tuesdays at the Robert Smith Studio, upstairs, at 105 North 1st St., Charlottesville, Va. For information write to BRCC, 1561 Dairy Road., Charlottesville, VA 22903.

EARLY AMERICAN COPPERS. Regional meetings held at many major coin shows. Annual convention scheduled for Spring of 2001 in Fredericksburg, Va. Information: Rod Burress, 9743 Leacrest, Cincinnati, OH 45215.

PIEDMONT COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 3rd Tuesdays at the Volunteer Fire Dept., Collinsville, Va. For information write to Piedmont Coin Club, P.O. Box 418, Collinsville, VA 24078.

RAPPAHANNOCK AREA COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 3rd Tuesdays in the cafe of Borders Books & Music, Central Park, Fredericksburg, Va. For information contact Harry Frank, 5923 Cascade Dr., Fredericksburg, VA 22407.

RICHMOND COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:30 pm on 1st Tuesdays at the First Union Bank Bldg., 7 N. 8th St., Richmond, Va. For information contact Lynn Horn, President, 401 Smoketree Cir., Richmond VA 23236, 804-378-0806.

SALEM COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 2nd Mondays at the Roanoke Main Library, 706 S. Jefferson St., Roanoke, Va. For information contact Emmett Yonce, 2040 Roanoke Rd., Daleville, VA 24083.

SHENANDOAH VALLEY COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:30 pm on 2nd Mondays at the Mary Switzer Bldg., Woodrow Wilson Rehab. Ctr., Fishersville, Va. For information contact Doug Seal, P.O. Box 598, Crozet, VA 22932.

SMOKETREE JUNIOR STAMP & COIN CLUB. Information: Lynn Horn, 401 Smoketree Cir., Richmond VA 23236,

bwhorn@email.msn.com

TIDEWATER COIN CLUB. Meets on 2nd Wednesdays at the VFW Hall, 4809 Bartee St., next to Toys-R-Us at Military Circle, Norfolk, Va. For information contact Malcolm Gutterman, P.O. Box 1145, Norfolk, VA 23501.

VIRGINIA PENINSULA COIN CLUB. Meets on 3rd Mondays at 7:30 pm at Sammy and Nick's Steak House, 2718 W. Mercury Blvd., in Hampton. For information write to VPCC, 140 Wellesley Dr., Newport News, VA 23606.

WARRENTON STAMP & COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 2nd Wednesdays at Warrenton Professional Center, 493 Blackwell Rd., Warrenton, Va. For information contact Tony Tripi at (540) 347-9212.

WASHINGTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY. Meets on 3rd Tuesdays at the Washington Congregational Church, 3526 Mass. Av. NW, Washington, D.C. For information write to Len Harsel, Box 2301, Springfield, VA 22152.

SHOW CALENDAR 2000

Suburban Baltimore/Washington Coin Show Oct. 26-29. Baltimore, Md. **Baltimore Convention Center** Dates changed from last issue! Nov. 4-5, Vienna, Va. Vienna Quarterly Stamp & Coin Show Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., off Park St. Carolina Coin, Stamp & Card Show Nov. 11-12, Raleigh, NC. State Fairgrounds, Holshouser Bldg. Nov. 11-12, LaVale, Md. Western Maryland Coin Club Show LaVale Fire Hall #1, 421 National Hwy. BANC 2000 Coin Show Nov. 19, Towson, Md. Holiday Inn, 1100 Cromwell Bridge Road (Beltway Exit 29) Crabstate Coin Expo Dec. 1-2-3, New Carrollton Md. Ramada Inn, Just off Beltway Shenandoah Valley Coin and Stamp Show Dec. 2-3. Fishersville, Va. Augusta Expoland, Route 608 at I-64 (Exit 91)

Please note that the dates for the Suburban Baltimore/Washington Coin Show have changed from those printed in the last issue.

Show promoters, please send in your show dates and corrections! This information needs to be as up-to-date and complete as possible.

Collectors, we recommend that you check with show promoters about schedule changes or cancellations before driving long distances.

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WANTED: Contemporary (to the Civil War) counterfeit Confederate notes for my personal collection. Please describe and price.
Ned Lea, 8704 Kings Mill Place, Raleigh, NC 27615

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION WANTED on signers of Va. colonial, other colonial, and Continental currency. Will pay for referenced information I don't have. David Consolvo, P.O. Box 153, Covesville, VA 22931, (804) 293-4371

DO YOU COLLECT WEB NOTES? or other US currency? Send a lg. SASE & receive a "FREE" currency price list. Happy Collecting! Barry Ciociola, P.O. Box 71646, Durham, NC 27722-1646

WANTED: United Daughters of the Confederacy medals awarded to military veterans. These bronze crosses cover the Civil War through Desert Storm. Charles Pfeiffer, 1401 Druid Rd., Maitland, FL 32751, (407) 644-0085

WANTED: Punch tags. Describe and price. Ginnie Aldridge, 515 Pinehurst Ave., Colonial Heights, VA 23834

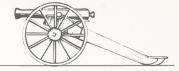
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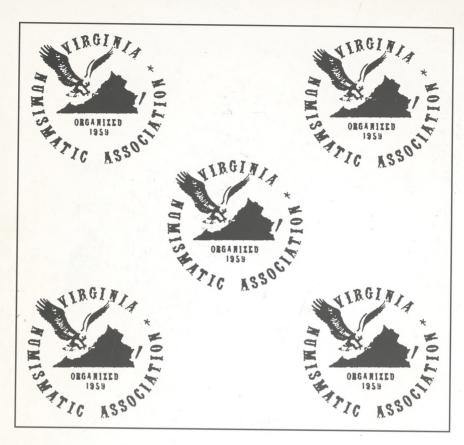
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THE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, 2000

Inside-



Guilty, as Charged

-Clay Everhart

A Visit to the Gallery Mint

-Bob Huisman



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Signed letters to the Editor are invited from VNA members. Please include your name and address. Letters will be printed if space permits.

THE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST

VOLUME 36, No. 6 November-December, 2000

The VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST, the official publication of the Virginia Numismatic Association, is published six times per year. Articles and items for publication are welcomed. It is mailed from Hampton, Virginia, at the 3rd Class Rate and cannot be forwarded, so be sure to send your change of address.

Send mail relating to the magazine to Red Henry, Editor, P.O. Box 2498, Winchester, VA 22604.

Send correspondence about membership, address changes, etc., to Daryl Spelbring, Secretary, P.O. Box 633, Vienna, VA 22183.

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President's Message

Col. Steven K. Ellsworth, VNA President

As the year closes, we can all reflect what a great year it has been for our association. We had two great conventions, one in the spring in Virginia Beach and the fall convention in Annandale. It was the first convention we have had in Virginia Beach in years, and the Tidewater club did a great job in putting on a first class event. Our 42nd Annual Convention was the third year we have held it in Annandale and was our best ever, with more educational lectures, exhibits and public attendance, not to mention another great mix of dealers from across the country.

This year was also the unveiling of the Virginia Quarter in Williamsburg. It is also the year of the closest national election we have had for President in our nation's 200-year history. I think that the former is perhaps may be more useful in the long run. Our membership continues to grow and we have added additional funds for the continuance of the Life Membership Fund. By all measurement, your VNA is in as good a state as we have ever been. The board continues to meet and continues to advance numismatics for all. It is a pleasure for me to work with such quality people as serve on your board of directors.

We now are looking forward to the Early American Copper Club's 28th Annual National Convention, which promises to be an exciting event. It will be held in Fredericksburg, VA March 28th through April 1st, 2001, at the Holiday Inn Select. Special rates have been arranged for. EAC is noted for being the premiere specialty collecting organization in the country. This will be an opportunity for all VNA members to learn more about our nation's early coinage, from the world's foremost experts. You will also see some of the finest examples of this type of coinage in existence. The bourse will open on Friday, March 30th and end on April 1st. I am sure that a number of VNA members will also want to join EAC after attending. But be sure to plan on being to this one, it should be great!

Our next challenge is to eliminate the sales tax on United States coin and currency sales in the Commonwealth. It will be one of the most challenging undertakings of VNA, but it is something we will all need to work for. The unfair sales tax on U.S. coins and currency has been eliminated in a number of states due the hard work of a few dedicated club members. If you have interest in this worthwhile project and can help us in any way, please let me know. With nearly 500 members scattered throughout the area, some are sure to have some experience with the legislative process in Richmond.

My very best regards,

COL Steven Ellsworth, President, VNA (703) 802-0252 e-mail: Butternut@gslink.com

Editor's Corner

Red Henry

Welcome to our Christmas issue! We hope that you are all having an enjoyable holiday season. Many thanks go to two contributing writers, Clay Everhart and Bob Huisman, for articles which appear in this issue. As many of you will recall, Clay's articles have appeared in these pages before.

We do need articles for this magazine! As we've said previously, you don't have to be an expert. Just write up some interesting aspect of coinage which you're familiar with! If you are an expert in your field, so much the better. We can all learn more about coins! If you have a favorite area of research or have some knowledge it would be interesting to share, write it up and send it in! Submissions by e-mail or on disk (PC format) are easiest on me, but typed articles are fine too. Ad rates are on page 1.

Advertising space is still available, including the choice ad spot at the top of the back cover. YOUR AD can go there, and it will be seen by a great many people. Dealers, take advantage of this opportunity to achieve additional ad exposure and help VNA at the same time!

The Virginia state quarters are out, although we haven't yet found any in circulation. I bought a roll at a recent show so that I would have some of them to spend, but I haven't found any others.

The same could be said for the new dollar coins. Many months after the coins were released, the only ones I've seen in circulation were the ones I placed there myself! Is the Sacagawea Dollar ultimately doomed to failure? Is it a great idea whose time has not come (and never will)? Will the hoarders defeat all the efforts of collectors and the mint to design and release new coins for circulation? Your comments on these issues are welcome.

As we mentioned last issue, we received word of Steve Bennett's death shortly before press time last month. Ginny Aldridge and Jim Ruehrmund kindly sent information about Steve, which we've used for his obituary in this issue. (See page 4).

This issue should be the last to reach you a few weeks late, in our effort to catch up after the pre- and post-convention issues. To help us keep on schedule, keep those cards and letters coming in. Whether you have a Letter to the Editor, club news to share, an original article, a photo of an unusual coin you've found, a show report, or a comment on ongoing numismatic issues, SEND IT IN! Your contributions are welcome.

Best wishes to you all for the holidays.

Red Henry, P.O. Box 2498, Winchester, Va. 22604 e-mail: <redhenry@visuallink.com>

Steven Robert Bennett III 1939 - 2000

Former VNA president Stephen R. Bennett III died peacefully on September 26th, 2000. Steve, owner of the Coin Exchange since 1991, was a long-time member of VNA and of the ANA and also served as President of the Richmond Coin Club.

A native of Chicago but raised in Richmond, California, Steve first attended a coin club meeting with a buddy in Japan, where he was stationed in the U.S. Army. That 1965 meeting led to an enthusiastic lifelong interest in coins and also to an acquaintance with another collector at the meeting, Miss Yoko Maki, whom he married soon afterward.

The Bennetts lived in many locations during Steve's army service, including six years spent in Germany and five in Alaska, where Steve became active in the local coin club. He retired from the Army in 1983 and settled in the Petersburg, Virginia area, a location he was familiar with from Army service at Fort Lee.

Steve began dealing in coins in 1969, and when he acquired the Coin Exchange from former owner Greg Tucker, he fulfilled a life-long ambition. The shop carried a varied line of merchandise including coins, stamps, and sports cards.

Steve is survived by his wife and their five sons, and also by three granddaughters. Memorial services were held at Liberty Chapel at Fort Lee. Contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 4240 Park Place Court, Suite 300, Glen Allen, Virginia, 23060.

Thanks to Glnny Aldridge and to Jim Ruehrmund for providing newspaper and TVN articles from which this obituary was composed.

ANA Award Nominations

The American Numismatic Association is asking for nominations for awards to be presented at the ANA World's Fair of Money next August in Atlanta. Nominees are sought for the following awards, among others:

Farran Zerbe Memorial Award—recognizes an individual for numerous years of outstanding service to the ANA as well as dedicated service in the field of numismatics. The nominee should be a Medal of Merit and Glenn Smedley Award recipient.

Medal of Merit—Recognizes individuals who have dedicated numerous years of service to the ANA. Nominees should be Glenn Smedley Award recipients.

Glenn Smedley Memorial Award—Recognizes individuals who have devoted their efforts to betterment of the ANA. Recipients should be involved in volunteer ANA service at the national, regional, or local level.

Lifetime Achievement Award—Presented to individuals, families, firms, or judicial entities that have made outstanding contributions to organized numismatics.

Those interested in making nominations for these awards should contact the ANA Awards Department, 818 Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903, phone (719) 632-2646, e-mail ana@money.org. The deadline for nominations is January 19, 2001.

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Guilty, as Charged

By Clay Everhart

I am guilty as charged. I know that it is wrong, but I cannot help myself.

Since re-igniting my interest in large cents in the early nineties, I have gone to each annual Early American Coppers convention that I could possibly attend. I try to go to EAC meetings when there is one in my area. I am first vice president of the Virginia Numismatic Association, and I do what I can for the organization, and I enjoy it. I read with interest the occasional squabbling among folks in the numismatic community, and on occasion I have even joined the fray. I have even been lucky enough to have had several articles and letters printed in EAC's Penny-Wise, ANA's The Numismatist, and VNA's excellent publication, The Virginia Numismatist. I have had the privilege of becoming friends with many collectors and several dealers. I truly enjoy seeing these folks at shows, and look forward to talking copper, or talking anything with each and every one of them. I have even made numismatic friendships over the phone that have been very rewarding. I enjoy looking at coins at exhibits and ones that I cannot afford at Tom or Jim or Doug or Steve's tables.

But I must be honest. I may even get in trouble for saying this. I might even be looked upon as some sort of pariah for mentioning it. This may not be politically correct or numismatically popular, but do you want to know what really drives me in 99.9% of my dealings with anyone associated with the numismatic community? Get ready for a shocker. Let the record state: What I really like best, by far, are my coins. Not other people's coins, not your coins. My coins, and most of all, the coins that I have most recently purchased.

There, I said it. Let me write it for all to read one more time: It is the large cents I really love. The reason I go to shows is to buy coins! Sometimes I cannot afford them (when did that ever stop me?), but it is the coins that I like most.

How much do I like my coins? Well, I have paid thousands of dollars for alarms and safes and safe-deposit boxes. But below are four examples that I think thoroughly prove the insane degree to which I like my coins. Maybe these should be requirements for a real bare-bones collector:

1. I once read, and I think it was *Penny-Wise* editor Harry Salyards who wrote it, that when he gets a new coin that he really likes, he will occasionally leave it by his bed so he can look at it more often and at his leisure. Until I read that, I assumed I was the only one who did this.

- 2. I have wasted time thinking about which coin I would keep if for some reason I could keep only one. (I can tell you, it would not necessarily be the most expensive one, or the most rare. I would choose the one that, when it is about a foot or so away from my eyes, looks best to me.)
- 3. When I receive my Penny-Wise every other month, the very first thing I look at are the coins for sale in the back of the magazine.
- 4. On the way home from any given coin show, I will often look closely at my newly purchased coins in the sunlight WHILE DRIVING at 75, er ah, 65 mph.

I have driven many miles in the snow and sleet to look at coins. Once I drove from Virginia to Delaware only to find out that a newspaper had printed the wrong date for the show. But did that stop me from driving back the next weekend to go to the show on the proper date? Of course not. I drove back up, happily.

I have met some women who think that all men think only about sex. Well, that may be true with me too. It's just that sometimes the woman I am fantasizing about is an 18th-century artist's rendering of Lady Liberty with draped bust and hair fastened by fillet. On my gravestone, perhaps my epitaph should read: "When we meet in the afterlife, we may discuss anything, but I will be thinking about her, as she looked in 1796." It's a love affair.



One of the reasons Clay likes coins so much: his 1798 over 7 large cent, Sheldon variety S-152. (Photo enlarged to show detail.)

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The 2000 Brittania Gold Proofs once again offer collectors the opportunity of owning a truly limited edition of this outstanding coin. Only 750 four-coin sets have been authorized, although an additional 500 1/4-ounce and 2,500 1/10-ounce pieces are available individually. The 1/10-ounce proof is reported as being already sold out.

Prices of the 2000 Brittania Frosted Gold Proofs are:

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A Visit to The Gallery Mint

Bob Huisman

I have an experience to share with you. I don't know how folks feel about copies of coins. It is a subject which has been given both positive and negative feedback. Some say it hurts numismatics while others praise the quality of some of the products. For me, a person who works with a limited budget, this is a wonderful opportunity to obtain some high end "rarities". There are some high quality items as well as some pretty bad ones in this market so you have do some research when looking for a quality "reproduction".

Over the past couple of years I have been purchasing some very nice, high quality copies of Large Cents and early silver from the Gallery Mint museum. These coins are very beautiful and, as far as I can tell, a fairly accurate depiction of the original pieces. I am very satisfied with each coin and the price was right. I have been receiving the GMM Newsletter on a regular basis and I find it very informative. In the newsletter, there is always an invitation to visit the museum if one is ever in the area. I decided to take them up on the invitation this past February while I was on a work assignment.

The museum is located in the northwest corner of Arkansas, just outside Eureka Springs. I had called a few days before the actual visit and was told to come by. A co-worker and I drove out to the museum on the following Saturday. We found the museum (after some wrong turns) in a remote area. It appeared that no one was around. After knocking on several doors, we were greeted by Mr. Joe Rust, one of the founders of the museum. He was not expecting any visitors and he apologized for not having the machinery set up for our visit. He proceded to walk us through the various rooms, describing the many pieces of equipment and giving a history and story about each item. There were various presses, including an original US Mint steam press from the 1830s. Joe was currently making repairs to the press which meant that he was fabricating parts to replace pieces that no longer existed! He also showed us a "modern" press that was recently acquired from the San Fransisco Mint. As he talked. I could not help but get the feeling that this was very much the same type of atmosphere that must have existed during the early days of the Mint. Dealing with problems by experimentation. It was very apparent that Joe loved to work with machinery and he was up to any challenge. Seeing all of the equipment in the various rooms and garages added to the feeling that this was a special place indeed!

Joe took us to where the dies were created and we met Mr. Ron Landis who was at his bench, busily working on another die. All around him were the tools of his trade, various die molds and drawings of coins. We were amazed at the

simplicity of the work area. Nothing in the way of modern technology or sophisticated lighting. It was as if we stepped back to a simpler time. Ron was very gracious. He stopped what he was in the middle of and proceded to give us an overview of the coin creation process. We also discussed the political process of selecting the new dollar coin in which GMM was a competitor. We were also shown the latest GMM effort, the Greek Athena/Owl three coin series. They were truly beautiful with the largest piece being surprisingly heavy! There were also some interesting "hobo" nickels that Ron enjoys creating. Ron is a true artist who loves what he does. He has a deep respect for the entire creation process and its history. We discussed US coin designs, their reflection of the concept of Liberty and the country's history. He talked about creating a demonstration of the history of the coining process—from ancient times to the present. This will become a permanent exhibit in the new Gallery Mint Museum which will be constructed nearby.

It is very apparent that both men (along with the other folks who work at GMM) believe in what they are doing. They are very friendly, gracious and hospitable. Make no mistake—they are experts in their fields and this is no fly-by-night operation. I think that GMM started out as an idea in the 80's and a permanent, showcase museum is almost a reality. I felt that I was witnessing something very special. It certainly adds something to those GMM coins in my collection. I would highly recommend that if you are ever near Eureka Springs, Arkansas, you must make arrangements for a tour of the Gallery Mint Museum facilities. You will not be disappointed! If you are interested, GMM has a website— www.coin-gallery.com/gmm. Check it out!

Bob Huisman is a member of the Virginia Numismatic Association and Early American Coppers.

National Coin Week 2001

"Faces of Time," focusing on the people whose portraits have appeared on coins throughout history, is the theme for the ANA's 78th observance of National Coin Week, April 15-21, 2001.

ANA Education Director Gail Baker comments that the 50 State Quarters Program and the Sacagawea dollar have brought public attention to images on our money. From depictions of Julius Cæsar and Jesus Christ on ancient coinage to portraits of Daniel Boone and George Washington Carver on modern coins, a fascinating variety of people have been portrayed on coins.

Entries for National Coin Week awards must be received by the ANA on or before May 31, 2001. Awards will be presented at the World's Fair of Money in Atlanta, Ga., August 8-12.

Andy Skrabalak

Alynne Skrabalak

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New Products



Krause Publications announces a new series of State Quarter annuals entitled *State Quarter Collector*. The books not only offer a place to display each year's new quarters, but also provide a wealth of information about each coin and the state it honors.

The 1999 and 2000 editions are now available. Each volume features the coins of five states. Chapters devoted to each state offer a look at how the quarter designs were selected, together with other collecting and American history for each state.

State Quarter Collector annuals can be purchased from major bookstores, or directly from the publisher fof \$9.95 each, plus \$3.25 for shipping for the first book and \$2.00 for each additional book.

Krause Publications also announces a new publication, 2001 North American Coins & Prices, a 560-page volume with over 45,000 current coin prices. The coin listings are supplemented by over 1,500 photographs, and coins are priced in up to 11 grades of condition. Coverage of U.S. coinage includes Colonial and Federal issues, Commemmoratives, American Eagle bullion coins, and mint varieties and errors. Canadian coins since 1858 and Mexican coins since 1701 complete the coverage of North America.

Ordering by mail: Write Krause Publications, Book Department PRMM, 700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54990-0001. Wisconsin residents, please add 5.5% sales tax. Illinois residents, please add 6.25%. Iowa and Pennsylvania residents, add 6%. California residents add 7.25%. Virginia residents add 4.5%. Tennessee residents add 8.25%. Washington residents add 8.2%. Charge-card customers can order toll-free at (800) 258-0929, Dept. PRMM.

ANA News

The American Numismatic Association has paid coin dealer Dave Thaxter of Elkridge, Maryland, \$1000 for returning coins stolen from Richard Nachbar Rare Coins of Williamsville, New York. Nachbar also gave Thaxter \$1000 for returning 10 "very rare" certified coins reported stolen during shipment.

Last March, Nachbar discovered that an overnight mail service had not delivered a package of rare coins to one of his customers in New Jersey. By the time Nachbar was able to list his missing coins on two coin dealer trading networks, the missing items had been sold twice—first by the alleged thief, and then to Thaxter, of Metro Wholesale Coin & Currency Supply.

When Thaxter discovered the coins he had purchased were listed as stolen, he contacted Nachbar and returned them. The thief, identified through information he had provided the first coin dealer, was arrested.

Stack's and **Superior Galleries** have been selected as the official auctioneers for the ANA 2002 Money Show and World's Fair of Money, respectively. The 2002 National Money Show is scheduled to be held in Jacksonville, Florida. Superior was awarded the auction sale for the 2002 World's Fair of Money, to be held in Salt Lake City next March.

The course catalog for the ANA's 33rd Annual Summer Seminar, June 30 to July 13, 2001, is available on the ANA website, www.money.org.

The seminar is split into two one-week sessions. Each session will offer 16 classes. Seminar students can attend one class from either session, or stay both weeks and select one class per session. Between the two sessions, activities are planned.

In addition to the classes, ANA Summer Seminar 2001 will offer six handson mini-seminars that will be taught in two or three evening-long sessions. Subjects of some mini-seminars include "Early American Copper Coinage" (with Doug Bird and Steve Carr), "Grading Buffalo Nickels, Mercury Dimes, and Walking Liberty Half Dollars" (with Bill Fivaz), "Detection of Counterfeit and Altered Coins" (with Mary Sauvain), and "World War II Numismatics" (with Joe Boling).

Cost of tuition, meals and dorm accomodations at Colorado College remains a bargain: \$510 for double accomodations or \$610 for a private room. Off-campus housing is available. Fee for mini-seminars is \$35.00 per class. Scholarships and financial aid are available.



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BLUE RIDGE COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:30 pm on last Tuesdays at the Robert Smith Studio, upstairs, at 105 North 1st St., Charlottesville, Va. For information write to BRCC, 1561 Dairy Road., Charlottesville, VA 22903.

EARLY AMERICAN COPPERS. Regional meetings held at many major coin shows. Annual convention scheduled for Spring of 2001 in Fredericksburg, Va. Information: Rod Burress, 9743 Leacrest, Cincinnati, OH 45215.

PIEDMONT COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 3rd Tuesdays at the Volunteer Fire Dept., Collinsville, Va. For information write to Piedmont Coin Club, P.O. Box 418, Collinsville, VA 24078.

RAPPAHANNOCK AREA COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 3rd Tuesdays in the cafe of Borders Books & Music, Central Park, Fredericksburg, Va. For information contact Harry Frank, 5923 Cascade Dr., Fredericksburg, VA 22407.

RICHMOND COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:30 pm on 1st Tuesdays at the First Union Bank Bldg., 7 N. 8th St., Richmond, Va. For information contact Lynn Horn, President, 401 Smoketree Cir., Richmond VA 23236, 804-378-0806.

SALEM COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 2nd Mondays at the Roanoke Main Library, 706 S. Jefferson St., Roanoke, Va. For information contact Emmett Yonce, 2040 Roanoke Rd., Daleville, VA 24083.

SHENANDOAH VALLEY COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:30 pm on 2nd Mondays at the Mary Switzer Bldg., Woodrow Wilson Rehab. Ctr., Fishersville, Va. For information contact Doug Seal, P.O. Box 598, Crozet, VA 22932.

SMOKETREE JUNIOR STAMP & COIN CLUB. Information: Lynn Horn, 401 Smoketree Cir., Richmond VA 23236,

- Swhorn@email.msn.com

TIDEWATER COIN CLUB. Meets on 2nd Wednesdays at the VFW Hall, 4809 Bartee St., next to Toys-R-Us at Military Circle, Norfolk, Va. For information contact Malcolm Gutterman, P.O. Box 1145, Norfolk, VA 23501.

VIRGINIA PENINSULA COIN CLUB. Meets on 3rd Mondays at 7:30 pm at Sammy and Nick's Steak House, 2718 W. Mercury Blvd., in Hampton. For information write to VPCC, 140 Wellesley Dr., Newport News, VA 23606.

WARRENTON STAMP & COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 2nd Wednesdays at Warrenton Professional Center, 493 Blackwell Rd., Warrenton, Va. For information contact Tony Tripi at (540) 347-9212.

WASHINGTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY. Meets on 3rd Tuesdays at the Washington Congregational Church, 3526 Mass. Av. NW, Washington, D.C. For information write to Len Harsel, Box 2301, Springfield, VA 22152.

New Products



The British Royal Mint has announced that, for the first time since 1902, an extremely low mintage of United Kingdom Five-Pound Gold Bullion coins have been struck and are now available to collectors in North America. A mintage of only 10,000 of the 2000-dated coins have been authorized, in spite of the likely popularity of this magnificent piece. Struck in 22-karet (916.7 Au) gold, this coin contains 1.177 ounces of fine gold.

No £5 bullion coins have been struck since the coronation of King Edward VII in 1902. However, £5 Brilliant Uncirculated coins have been a popular issue since 1984.

Price of the 2000-dated United Kingdom £5 coin is \$525.00.



The Falkland Islands mark their 25th anniversary of coinage with Proof and Uncirculated sets. The sets contain the seven circulating denominations together with the Milennium £2 coin—the first bi-colored coin to be issued by the Falklands. Only 2,500 proof sets are authorized, while mintage of the uncirculated sets is unlimited. Price for the proof set is \$49.95, and for the uncirculated set \$19.95. Orders and inquiries to: British Royal Mint, Cheyanne, WY 82008-0031. Add \$4.95 shipping+handling per order.

SHOW CALENDAR 2000-2001

Md. Crabstate Coin Expo Ramada Inn, Just off Beltway
Shenandoah Valley Coin and Stamp Show Augusta Expoland, Route 608 at I-64 (Exit 91)
Before Christmas Coin Show Salisbury Civic Center, Boundry St.
BANC Coin Show Holiday Inn, Exit 29 off Beltway
Suburban Washington-Baltimore Coin and Currency Convenrion Baltimore Convention Center, Halls A & B
BANC Coin Show Holiday Inn, Exit 29 off Beltway
Atlantic Rarities Coin Exposition Baltimore Convention Center, Hall D

Show promoters, please send in your show dates and corrections! This information needs to be as up-to-date and complete as possible.

Collectors, we recommend that you check with show promoters about schedule changes or cancellations before driving long distances.

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FOR SALE: My list for your SASE. Confederate/ 1862 Va/ WVa. Obsolete/ U.S./ Tokens / MPC / British World / Books. C.D. Damron, Rt. 4, Box 63K, St. Albans, WV 25177, ph. (304)768-6246

WANTED: Contemporary (to the Civil War) counterfeit Confederate notes for my personal collection. Please describe and price.
Ned Lea, 8704 Kings Mill Place, Raleigh, NC 27615

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION WANTED on signers of Va. colonial, other colonial, and Continental currency. Will pay for referenced information I don't have. David Consolvo, P.O. Box 153, Covesville, VA 22931, (804) 293-4371

DO YOU COLLECT WEB NOTES? or other US currency? Send a lg. SASE & receive a "FREE" currency price list. Happy Collecting! Barry Ciociola, P.O. Box 71646, Durham, NC 27722-1646

WANTED: United Daughters of the Confederacy medals awarded to military veterans. These bronze crosses cover the Civil War through Desert Storm. Charles Pfeiffer, 1401 Druid Rd., Maitland, FL 32751, (407) 644-0085

WANTED: Punch tags. Describe and price. Ginnie Aldridge, 515 Pinehurst Ave., Colonial Heights, VA 23834

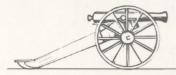
WANTED: ELKS-Both BPOE & IBPOEW tokens. Price & describe in 1st letter. J.M. Boswell, P.O. Box 428, Gambrills, MD 21054-0428

WANTED: All foreign paper money, scrip & notgeld + US MPC & CSA notes. Daryl C. Spelbring, P.O. Box 633, Vienna, VA 22183, (703) 938-7267

FOR SALE: 1876 Quarter Dollar overstamped "A.G. Miller". Make an offer. Ray Haymaker, 115 Grass Pt. Dr., Huddleston, VA 24104, (540) 297-5898.

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